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## THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 15TH MAY.

THE LAST STATISTICAL REPORTER has a very interesting article on Monghyr. To compare small things with great Monghyr is called the Birmingham of India. Guns and pistols, spear-heads and toasting-forks are its chief iron manufactures, but a hundred years has caused little or no variety in the hardware exposed for sale. The carpenters and cabinet-makers of Monghyr in turning out inlaid ebony cases, necklaces of betel-nut, palm-wood, horn, and ebony brooches and bracelets of antiquated shape and pattern, are unsurpassed. They are equally clever in turning out chairs, tables, and almirahs at prices which make the export of such articles to Calcutta a source of considerable profit; and the trade might be extended to almost any extent if the carpenters could be persuaded to lay in a good stock of wood, and not use it until it is well seasoned. The writer says that the trade of the Monghyr carpenters should not be dismissed without mention of the modern and most useful vehicle known as the bamboo spring-cart, which is turned out in perfection for the modest sum of Rs. 40 complete. A pony and harness will cost a similar sum; so that a person must be very poor indeed who cannot keep his carriage in Behar. These carts or carriages, which combine cheapness, lightness, and strength, are invaluable in the district, and the road must be very bad where the bamboo cart cannot get along. A broken bridge or occasional precipice-like breach even will cause only a few minutes' delay; for whilst the servant, who sits behind, having taken the pony out, is leading it over to the opposite side, the driver dismounts from his perch and wheels the cart with little difficulty after the horse, or the aid of passers-by may be invoked to lift the carriage bodily to the other side. There appears no reason why bamboo spring-carts should not be introduced into England. One was figured in *Land and Water* about a year ago, but the papers have not mentioned their appearance hitherto either in Regent street or Rotton-row. Much of the *khus-khus*, the fragrant root of a species of andropogon grass, used for tatties in Calcutta, is exported from Monghyr. It is collected in the low-lying Farkia pergunnah by the Khanjars or string-makers, and sells locally as low as Rs. 120 per ton.

HERE IS a hint for some enterprising speculator. The writer on the article on Monghyr we have quoted above says: "Any person who could devise a method for sending fish from Monghyr, so that they may arrive fresh in Calcutta, would find little difficulty in attaining the highest rank among merchants. Although the main body of the natives of Monghyr eat fish, the supply appears unlimited, and the price is so low that it seems hardly worth while to go fishing in Monghyr. A few days back a portion of the tank adjoining the Government gardens was dragged, and about one hundred carps and siluroids were taken out, averaging 5lb a piece. As the highest bid for this haul was only five rupees, or ten shillings, it was considered not worth while to come to terms, and the fish were distributed among the poor people employed in the gardens and elsewhere." But the taste of the Monghyr fish is not very good.

THE DOMES of Monghyr, it is said, make the neatest baskets in the world from wheat-straw and the fibres of various grasses. But, says the writer referred to above, basket-making is in favour not only with the lowest castes, but also with the highest ladies in the land, who weave them with much ingenuity and elegance as a means to while away the zenana hours which hang heavily on their hands. They are of course not made for sale, but a few specimens have been presented to the Museum at Monghyr, where they may now be seen and admired.

THE ABOVE WRITER points out the injustice of confining the Road Cess to land. He says: "The recent introduction of the road-cess into the district is beginning to benefit the merchants in no small degree, although they do not contribute a farthing to the cess. During the past year the large rice tract towards Kurukpur has been opened out by a metalled road which joins Monghyr to Kurukpur, and by the next cold season a bridged road, over which a tandem may be driven without much fear of casualties, will connect Monghyr with the chord line at Jamui, a distance of over forty miles." As the increase of commerce benefits the imperial revenue, these roads ought to have been constructed out of that revenue.

"ARE THERE many, who can readily answer the question in the words of the Bengali saying—*kata dhana kata chal*, how much paddy produces how much rice? We observe that some experiments were lately made by the jail officer of Midnapore to test the proportion of rice to paddy. The experiments made by Mr. Larymore bring out one result which seems to account for the generally prevailing impression that rice is to paddy as 1 : 2, viz. that while the weight of the outturn of rice is fully two-thirds of the paddy, the cubical contents of the outturn is only a little more than one-half.

WE GIVE from the *Anglo-Indian Commercial Advertizer* the following receipts:

"To make Sachets or Scent-bags.—Various powders, &c., placed in silk bags, or ornamental envelopes, are agreeable and also economical for imparting a pleasant odour to linen and clothes, and preventing moths. For heliotrope powder, take half a pound of orris-root, one quarter of a pound of ground rose-leaves, two ounces of powdered tonquin bean, one half-drachm grain musk, two drops of essential oil of almonds; mix it all by sifting through a coarse sieve. This is one of the best sachets often made, and perfumes table-cloths, sheets, pillow cases, etc., deliciously. For lavender powder, take one pound of lavender, one quarter-pound of gum benzine, and one quarter of an ounce of oil of lavender. For patchouli, use half a pound of patchouli ground fine, and a very little of otto of patchouli. Sandal-wood sachet powder is good prepared from the ground wood, with a few drops of the oil of sandal. Cedar-wood when ground forms a body for other powders, and will keep moths at a distance. Dried fennel, and nutmegs when ground, are also used for similar purposes.

Compound for Removing Grease-stains from Clothing.—An earthy compound for removing grease-spots is made as follows:—Take fullers' earth, free from all gritty matter by elutrition with water; mix with half a pound of the earth so prepared half a pound of soda, as much curd soap, and eight yolks of eggs, well beaten up with half a pound of purified ox-gall. The whole must be carefully triturated upon a porphyry slab, the soda with the soap in the same manner as colours are ground, mixing in gradually the eggs and ox-gall previously beaten together. Incorporate next the soft earth by slow degrees till a uniform thick paste is formed, which should be made into balls or cakes of convenient size, and laid out to dry. A little of this detergent being scraped off with a knife, made into a paste with water and applied to the stain, will remove it.

Coating Glass for Conservatories, &c.—To render glass impervious to the direct rays of the sun, but not so opaque as to exclude the light, powder some flourspar and mix it with sulphuric acid, and rub the mixture on the glass with a piece of lead. Then heat the glass on some stove or other arrangement, by which the fumes can pass up the chimney; and when cool, wash the plate with diluted solution of potash, and rinse in water.

To Clean Brass Ornaments.—Wash the brass with rock-alum, boiled to a strong lye in the proportion of an ounce to a pint. When dry rub with fine Tripoli.

To Purify Tainted Meat.—Pour a few drops of hydrochloric acid in a large basin of water, till of a slightly sour taste, and immerse the meat in it for an hour or so, and it will become quite sweet again.

To Restore Brown Holland Chair-Covers.—After they have been washed in the usual manner they should be placed in water in which some hay has been boiled. This will restore the colour which has been washed out, and give them the appearance of new. It is also good for brown linen crum-cloths, and the covering for stair-carpets.

To Prepare Baking-Powder.—Tartaric acid, 4½ oz.; arrow-root or rice-flour, 4 oz.; mix. Another recipe is the following:—Alum, 5 oz.; bi-carbonate of soda, 2¾ oz.; bi-carbonate of ammonia, half an ounce; arrow-root, 4 oz.; mix.

Circassian Cream for the Hair.—Take half a pound of best white lard; 4 oz. of red rose oil; half an ounce of white wax; 1 oz. of spermaceti; 6 drops of otto of rose; melt the lard, &c., in a jar placed in hot water. When nearly cold, add the otto of roses, stirring till quite cold."

TUESDAY, 16TH MAY.

THE STATESMAN has the following about the author ship of the Black Pamphlet:

"There is a good story abroad as to the attempt made by the Secretariat, to ascertain the writer of the pamphlet. The inquiry was made, we are told, by a semi-official note, running somewhat as follows:—

"My dear Mr. ———

"His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has heard your name confidently associated with the *Black Pamphlet* as its author. Sir Richard Temple gives no credence to the statement whatever, but His Honor thinks it only due to you that you should know that the imputation has been made."—Yours very faithfully, ———

How many gentlemen were thus addressed we do not know, but it is said that one of the replies ran:—

"My dear Mr.— ———

"I am much obliged to His Honor for directing you to bring to my notice the imputation of which you speak, and I beg you will thank Sir Richard warmly for refusing to give any credence thereto."—Yours very faithfully, ———

The story is so good that we hope it is true."

The reply is much cleverer than the original letter. The respondent does not himself thank Sir Richard but asks the Secretary to do so!

THE ECCENTRIC Dr. Kenealy made a very sensible motion in connection with the Merchant Shipping Bill. It was as follows:

"Provided always, that after the passing of this Act no policy of Sea Insurance shall be valid or binding in which the lives of the crew are not insured by the owners of the ships in which they sail, the amount of such insurance money in the case of the ship being lost to be handed over by the insurers to the representatives or relatives of the deceased. No such insurance to be for a less sum than one hundred pounds on each life."

CHOLERA in Srinagar we are sorry to hear is increasing. The following are the figures for the week ending 5th instant:—

| | Seizures. | Deaths. | | Seizures. | Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29th April | 34 | 10 | 3rd May | 51 | 21 |
| 30th „ | 42 | 16 | 4th „ | 46 | 19 |
| 1st May | 41 | 12 | 5th „ | 40 | 28 |
| 2nd „ | 40 | 14 | | | |

The officer on special duty writes that the number of cases reported from the districts is also increasing daily, but as yet he has been unable to obtain satisfactory information of the entire number of cases that have occurred since the outbreak. Only two Pergunnahs have been as yet entirely free from the diseases.

IN CONNECTION with the above we notice that the Brahmins of Srinagar look forward to a most unhealthy year because the waters of a holy tank called Kheer Bawani are unusually low this year. They say a similar occurrence took place in the time of Sirdar Shere Singh, an adopted son of Maharajah Runjeet Singh, and the result was great sickness.

ACCORDING to the *Indian Public Opinion* a meeting of the Nobles and Raeeses of Cabul was held the other day, and among other matters discussed, was that of the Amir taking an additional title, that of Padishah (King.) His Highness evidently wants to be in the fashion!

THE Amir has ordered the Hakims of Candahar and Koorum to send to Cabul immediately four regiments of foot each. It is stated that he intends to send out an expedition against the Shunwaries and Mohmunds.

THE LONDON Correspondent of the *Civil and Military Gazette* says that it is believed in Italy that Victor Emmanuel is really married to the Countess Mirafiori, although the nuptials are not recognised by the State. She insists upon being styled "Your Majesty" on all occasions, very much to the scandal of the Court. For the rest of it, the countess is a jolly sort of woman, of the Nell Gwynne sort; handsome, dashing, good-tempered, good-natured, and extremely charitable to the poor. She exercises very great influence over the King; who it is asserted, consults with her in all important affairs of State.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH MAY.

ONE of the richest men in the world has just died,—Mr. A. T. Stewart of New York. His property all of which he made himself, has been variously estimated at from sixteen to twenty millions sterling, and his annual income at one million. Every farthing of this has been piled up since 1823, when Mr. Stewart landed in New York with little other capital than a good education—he graduated at Trinity College, Dublin—and shrewdness. For four years he taught classics in a private school in the States, but finding it unprofitable he turned his attention to commerce and opened a dry-goods store. This was the nucleus of his vast fortune and of enormous establishment in New York, the floors of which cover no less than twenty-three acres of ground. The odd thing is that, prodigiously wealthy as he was, Mr Stewart exercised scarcely any influence, social or political. His sole ambition was successful trade, and in this he distanced all rivalry.

DR. GORDON DAVIDSON, Inspector General of Hospitals, Her Majesty's Army, writes to the *Times*, that "Scotland is drinking itself to death and the Government cannot stop it." The cause of this national decadence is simple; an inordinate love of "whiskey." Very wroth is the worthy doctor with that spirit. He declares that "it contains no nutriment and is merely an unnatural stimulant."

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Pioneer* gives the following running history of Simla as the summer seat of the Government of India:

"The first Governor-General on record who went to the hills was Lord William Bentinck about forty years ago. Wellesley and Bentinck were antipodes. Wellesley was a stout old Tory of the Regency. Bentinck was a feeble Liberal of the Reform era. Bentinck flourished in a Pecksniffian age of civilisation and philanthropy; of elevating the native mind, sending up balloons, planting tea gardens, importing steamers, opening up a trade with Siberia, and a thousand other schemes more or less Utopian. Lord William Bentinck went to Ootacamund, and Mr. Babington Macaulay, "our accomplished colleague" as he was called, went with his Lordship. Mr. Macaulay was Law Commissioner on ten thousand a year. He compiled the Black Act; wrote Edinburgh reviews of Clive and Hastings; and penned an educational minute in which he confounded the study of Sanskrit with a blind belief in seas of milk and sugar. During the Afghan and Sikh wars Ootacamund was forgotten, and Simla became a centre of political life. Lord Auckland issued his declaration of war against Cabul from the heights of Simla; and when that war was over, Lord Ellenborough issued his proclamation about the gates of Somnath from the same locality; Lord Dalhousie and Lord Canning frequented Simla. But in those days the Governor-General left his Council at Calcutta and was attended only by his Foreign Secretary. It was not until the administration of the present Lord Lawrence that the whole Government of India began to move every year to Simla. The plan of taking all the members of Council, the secretaries and their respective households to Simla, is said to have been concocted by Sir Gregory Hardlines, of course under the influence of charming women. But the legal member had already set the ball going. Sir Henry Maine went to Simla during the previous reign of Lord Elgin, just as Mr. Macaulay had gone to Ootacamund with Lord William Bentinck. But who can unravel mysteries in which lawyers and ladies are mixed up?

So woman was after all at the bottom—of Simla!

A JUDICIAL SCANDAL. A case of theft by a post master was lately decided by the Magistrate of Shahjehanpore, in whose judgment occurred the following:

"It is not altogether unworthy of note regarding the accused that he is a relative of Ghasi Ram, the Judge's sherishtadar, who is Bansidhur's *phoopa* or uncle by marriage to his father's sister (see question and answer marked X in Bansidhur's examination), and hence it is probable that Bansidhur and his father may expect aid and assistance from their influential relative whom they very probably consider ready and able to help them *verbum sap.*"

The Sessions Judge thus remarks on the above:

"If the sherishtadar has any influence in this office, and if he can aid and assist in cases he has to bring forward, he can only have obtained that influence and was able to exercise it by neglect on my part of my own authority and position.

The object of the magistrate's remark must, therefore, be that this neglect has been shown by myself, and that the sherishtadar can aid and assist in trials in this court owing to an improper influence allowed him over myself. The statement is grossly incorrect, and the motive with which it is made is objectionable and unjustifiable in the extreme.

The sherishtadar has no influence in this office; it is due to him to say he has never attempted to exercise any either in my presence or behind my back, or would not be where he is; but further, the magistrate can point to no decision or order of any kind issuing from my court which bears the impress of any other opinion than my own, or in which he can ground even an influence that interference or influence has been improperly exercised. The magistrate is informed that he has grossly erred in foisting the words quoted which have no bearing on the case before him into his decision, that his obtrusion of them with a manifestly improper motive, is an act of insolence to his superior, and that he has degraded his own position by giving utterance to a statement which is absolutely incorrect."

Mr. Oldfield makes the following observations:

"The pleader of the prisoner has failed to show, nor has the court any reason to think, that the prisoner has in any way been prejudiced by what passed between the magistrate and judge, or that he has had other than a fair trial. The Magistrate evidently believed that interest had been at work in favor of the accused, and thought it not unlikely that the sherishtadar, a relative of the accused, had exerted that influence, and his evident object in making the remarks he did was to put the appellate court on its guard, but that was the only object which can reasonably be inferred from his remarks. This action of the magistrate was extremely ill-judged and improper, since there was nothing in the evidence before him which could justify the suspicions he had formed against the sherishtadar, or which made it his duty to record them.

But there is nothing to justify the extreme severity of the language in which the judge has conveyed his censure, or to warrant the imputation that the magistrate wished to cast reflections on the judge, or that he was actuated by any improper motive, or had any desire to support the decision of the case in appeal. The judge should have abstained from hastily imputing motives so prejudical to the character of the magistrate."

What a spectacle is presented in the above!

THE PIONEER has the following important remarks on the military training of Native Princes:

"The condition of native princes has greatly changed under British supremacy, and in many important respects the change has been for the better. The pressure of political officers has lessened many of the evils which existed under purely native *regime*. A minister and her queen mother are kept within bounds. The princes themselves are more amenable to English influences. But one important element is wanting and absence in the culture of an Asiatic prince is a positive evil. A young rajah may be induced to engage in athletic games and exercises, to pursue field sports, to run, ride, and swim. But he receives no military training worthy of the name. There are, or there seem to be, exceptional cases. Maharajah Scindia, for instance, has strong military instincts, and is certainly endowed with military genius. He delights in drilling and training his troops, and in fidgetting over their arms and accoutrements. But His Highness's martial aspirations receive no encouragement from the British Government. On the contrary, they are regarded with disfavour. He is bound by treaty obligations to keep his force within a certain specified strength. He has been told that any increase to his standing army is of no service to his state, and an useless drain upon his resources. Now, there is nothing like army training to form the character of an Asiatic prince, and to bring out his dormant energies. In dealing with this important point, we are almost inclined to throw political considerations to the winds. Army training is a necessity to the well-being of the greater part of the native aristocracy in India. The only question that remains to be solved is how to render this training subservient to the interests of the British empire; how to organize a military service for nobles and princes that shall promote the welfare of the body politic, as well as that of the individuals concerned."

We hope now that the Queen has assumed the title of Empress, Her Imperial Majesty will settle this important question in a truly imperial spirit.

THE RANGOON GAZETTE states that one of the officers of the Revenue Survey Department who had been ordered to Thoukyan by the Deputy Commissioner to survey the lands thereabouts, with the view to fix the assessment leviable on them came in post haste to report that the villagers had broken out into open mutiny, tearing up and spitting upon the Deputy Commissioner's notices, ordering them to point out boundaries and to render assistance to the officer deputed. They surrounded the Zayat, in which the latter was putting up, declaring that they would neither point out the boundaries nor allow their lands to be surveyed, and as for the Deputy Commissioner or his orders they did not care a straw. Our contemporary remarks: "Burmans as a rule are a long suffering race, and altho' not slavish by any means in their behaviour will endure a great deal before breaking out in the above outrageous manner. The inference then in the minds of all unprejudiced persons is that there must have been some strong causes of irritation which must have preceded the arrival of the young officer from the Revenue Survey Department to have called forth such expressions of defiance." As the parties will be prosecuted, the whole truth we dare say will come out in the trial.

### THURSDAY, 18TH MAY.

A CORRESPONDENT from Bhangore bitterly complains of the great hardship and inconvenience which the people under that Thanna and a part of the station of Harrowa suffer for want of a sub-registry office within easy reach. They have at present to walk a distance of 30 miles. Bhangore is a populous village in the 24-Pergunnahs, and it is surrounded by many thickly peopled agricultural villages. A sub-registry office may be opened there at least experimentally.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following:—"Rupees 3 60,000 have been sanctioned by Government for pulling Punkhas in Barracks and Hospitals of the Bengal Presidency during the hot season of 1876-77"!

A GURBETTA Correspondent sends us woful tidings of the consequences resulting from the removal of the sub-divisional head-quarters from Gurbetta to Ghattal. Not to say of the fears that are entertained of *chuar* inroads consequent upon this removal, some atrocities have already been committed. On the night of the removal a murder was committed at Baladghata, a village 7 miles east of Gurbetta; a dacoity was perpetrated in the house of one Ananda Maiti which was gutted and the man himself tortured to death. Even before the removal and on the strength of the rumour that the Deputy Magistrate will no longer try Gurbetta cases, the house of a widow at Rughunathpore, 2 miles west of Gurbetta was robbed and the widow herself tortured to death. It is rumoured that a well-to-do resident of Gurbetta had to buy off a gang of dacoits, who threatened to visit him as soon as the sub-division was abolished.

MR E C SCHROTTKY G. C. U. G. of Bombay and a pupil of the late Baron Justies von Liebig, is about to bring out his great work on "The Principles of Rational Agricultural applied to India and its Staple Products." The price of the book to subscribers will be Rs. 5 and it is to be had of the author at Messrs. Forbes and Co., Bombay.

A BANDA CORRESPONDENT says that during the year 1875, 162 persons were killed by wolves in Banda of whom 6 were adult males and females, and 156 children. In 1874 the number destroyed, was 156 only.

### FRIDAY, 19TH MAY.

IN A late discussion connected with the proposal for altering the sale law the Government had held out hopes that the law would not be enforced with unnecessary rigour in cases which might admit of palliation. We do not therefore understand how valuable estates are advertised for sale for trivial claims which can be easily satisfied by a single notice to the proprietors. We take at random some cases from the land sale notices in the last *Calcutta Gazette*, which shew that estates paying Government revenue to the extent of thousands of rupees are going to be sold for arrears ranging from Rs. 200 to Rs 2. In the 24-Pergunnahs Kismut Dantun, Pergunnah Dantun, yielding Government revenue of Rs. 26,177-12-11½ is to be sold for arrears of Rs. 227-7-10. In Sarun, estates yielding revenue from rupees 1819 to 618 are going to be sold for arrears of Rs. 2, 4 and 72 respectively. In Mozufferpore seven estates bearing Government revenue ranging from Rs. 1700 to 534 will be put to the hammer for arrears from Rs. 27-4-2 to Rs. 1-0-2. In Durbhanga an estate paying Rs. 3437-5-4 will be knocked down for an arrear of Rs. 64-10-2 and another paying Rs. 3437-5-4 for that of Rs. 18-8-9. In Jessore an estate paying Rs. 1658-11-2 will be put to the hammer for an arrear of Rs 1-13-1.

LAST MONDAY'S storm has done considerable damage to property of which the public have no idea. We hear from the Mahajuns that about 52 kistis or boats laden with country produce were lost. The loss of paddy-straw boats has been so numerous as to raise the price of straw from Rs. 3-12 to Rs. 5-4 per kahun.

A CORRESPONDENT from Chinsurah writes to complain of the conduct of the inmates of the Mahomedan Hostel at that place, who it is said are obstreperous and indulge in boisterous obscenities within hearing of the zenanas of the residents living in the neighbourhood. We hope the Governors of the institution will enquire into the complaint and put a stop to the nuisance.

THE PROSPECTS of the crops and the state of the weather are improving. During the week ending the 13th instant, rain fell in most of the districts of Bengal which enabled cultivators to resume agricultural operations. The only portions of the country which have been rather unfortunate are parts of the Patna and the Chota Nagpore Divisions and the whole of Orissa. We hope to hear more favorable reports for the week ending the 19th current.

IN A PAPER in the last number of the first part of the Asiatic Society's Journal, Mr. Beveridge maintains that the Sundarbans were never in a more flourishing condition than now. He doubts whether the Sundarbans were ever largely peopled or contained large cities. Amongst other arguments he says that "the fact of so much salt having been manufactured there (Backergunge and Noakhali) in old times militates against the view of extensive cultivation; for the salt could not have been made without a great expenditure of fuel, which of course implies the existence of large tracts of jungle." This is not however the opinion of others, who have studied the subject. In an able article in an early number of the *Calcutta Review* the writer well supported his view of the Sundarbans having contained large and flourishing cities in former times and accounted for the marshy nature of the ground and its submersion in salt water from the fact of some subterraneous volcanic disturbances which depressed the country and made it desolate.

THE BENGAL TIMES notices an abusive placard posted on a public building at Dacca, by a native youth, and then mourns that a century of British rule has not yet taught the people of this country better manners. It forgets however that posting an opponent is a strictly English custom, which has come to India along with English civilization. Had it had the experience of Calcutta about the time, when Sir Barnes Peacock married for the last time, it would have seen big posters in all the principal streets of the city inviting people to go to the Town Hall to see the most monstrous animal in existence. It is to be presumed those posters did not proceed from a native youth.

A FRIEND thus writes to us from Bhuddruck under date the 15th instant: "The want of rain is very severely felt here. In some places the people have no water to drink or bathe in. Bighas of sugar-cane plantations are as dry as sticks, while scarcely there is a place from which we do not hear of cholera. God knows what will be our fate if the weather continues in this state some time longer!"

### SATURDAY, 20TH MAY.

DR. RAJENDRALALA MITRA made a humorous and pregnant speech at the last meeting of the Family Literary Club on electricity. He said:

"Electricity was the grandest, the most awe-inspiring, and all-pervading power in nature. As it is manifested in thunder and lightning, we cannot behold it except in fear and trembling. Seen in the magnetic needle, it is curious and puzzling. Spread over the face of the universe, it is mysterious and inscrutable. What has European civilization of modern days done with it? Why, it has forced that form of electricity called the magnetic to serve as our most trusted guide in the trackless ocean. It has obliged that subtle fluid to become the most rapid carrier of messages, girdling the earth as our carriers. it has converted it into the burnisher of our domestic vessels, coating our pots and pans, cups and saucers, with gold or silver, according to our wishes it has employed the magnetic current to ring our call-bells, and forge our platinum vessels, to give us light at our command, and to blow up obstructions in the beds of rivers and seas. Instead of cowing under the dread of the awful lightening, we can now make it come down at our beck, and oblige it to follow any course we choose, so that what was an irresistible evil has now become a faithful and obedient servant. Elec-

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tricity is the most widely-diffused of all imponderables. It traverses the clouds, producing lightning and thunder; it dwells in the atmosphere, causing cyclones, duststorms, and whirlwinds; and it pervades the surface of the earth, forcing the compass to remain true to the poles, and helping the germination of corn. Every ray of sunlight has, for its component, a portion of electricity, and the electricity in the clouds regulates our rainfall. Without it, the rainfall could never have been so regular and seasonable as it is. The oxygen of the air which supports our life is peculiarly influenced by electricity, producing what the chemists call "ozone," and nothing on earth is so potent an agency for destroying malaria as that ozone. Under the name of animal magnetism, it exercises the most potent influence over all vital functions. it is electricity which enables the lover to wink to his beloved, and it is electricity which brings the blush on beauty's cheek. The soldier could not draw his sword without the aid of electricity, nor the author write down his thoughts without it."

The learned Doctor "electrified" his audience.

AT THE SAME MEETING Sir William Muir, who presided over it, said, "the Society was called the Family Literary Club, and yet, looking around him, he was painfully reminded that it could only be called family association in a most narrow and limited sense. It was sad to think that the females of their families should be so entirely cut off from all such opportunities of intellectual improvement. So long as one moiety of their race was left in ignorance and darkness, they could not lay claim to the character and position of a civilized nation; therefore, he trusted that the remark he had made might take root in their hearts, and let them consider what steps they could take gradually, but effectually, to remove from them this great reproach (Applause.)" Sir William Muir should attend the Society next year to see what fruit his suggestion has borne.

WE ARE sorry to record the death of Babu Jadhub Chunder Dey, Subordinate Judge. He was one of the first Law graduates of the University and being of a quiet disposition preferred the judicial service. He rose rapidly in the service, and won the golden opinions of both suitors and his official superiors. He has been cut off in the prime of life—he was scarcely 40 years of age.

IT IS SAID that the author of the Black Pamphlet has been discovered and that he has been banished to Attia in Mymensing. People have been making all sorts of remarks upon the action of Government, but a friend, who has been overlooking from behind, says that he can lay a wager that the author will be promoted. This is generally the fate of men who provoke "the powers that be."

A RECENT ISSUE of the *Times of India* contained the following, which was coped in the *Englishman*:

"Fall of a Bridge built by a Bengali Engineer.—We hear, that a large girder bridge, which was said to be completed on the Mhow and Neemuch Road, came down with a run last week at the Ghattibelode Nullah, just as they were about to level the roadway, by sending a roller over it. As soon as the roller and buffaloes had got well on the middle of one of the arches, down they fell through the bridge; one man was killed, and a number of others are seriously injured. The Executive Engineer in charge of the works is a Bengali gentleman, *Mr. Chatterji*. Another mishap for the D. W. P.—*Times of India*."

A correspondent thus writes to us on the subject:

"On reading the paragraph in the *Englishman* of the 8th instant as transcribed on the margin I wrote to a friend of mine on the spot to inform me as to the nature of the allegations contained therein, as a Bengali gentleman was attacked rightly or wrongly. My friend says that the damage done to the bridge was due to an earthquake recently experienced there which caused the foundations to shake and unsettle. Roller was sent over the bridge with a view of ascertaining the extent of the damage done by the earthquake, and it was through sheer accident, injury was caused to life and limb by the fall of a portion of the bridge. "*Mr. Chatterji*" is Babu Khetramohan Chatterjee, Executive Engineer, 4th grade and a graduate of the Rurki College."

OUR ASSAM CORRESPONDENT writes to us as follows

"That the Police oppress the people is a well known fact. I never heard of any member of that Department being illegally imprisoned not by any tribunal of justice but by the fiat of a tea-planter. A very amusing case was decided the other day by Mr. Damant, Deputy Commissioner of Kachar, who imposed a fine of Rs. 80 on the accused Mr. Sharpe, Manager, Indragar Tea Estate for illegally detaining Babu Kali Sundar Chakrobarti, Sub-Inspector and two Head Constables of the Kachar Police force while in the execution of their duty.

A Head Constable of the Goalpara Police has been reported to have absconded on the night of the 11th instant with nearly 1,100 Rupees of Government placed under his guard."

THE LAST NUMBER of the *National Magazine* has several interesting articles. It is pleasant to see a Punjabi take interest in the music literature of Bengal.

WE HAVE received a telegram from the Bengal Office to the effect that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor reached Darjeeling on the 17th instant at noon.

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS have been thrown open to the public. The first week's receipts from admission fees exceeded a hundred rupees.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

*London 11th May.*—Mr. W. H. James' motion of the 4th instant, that the [proclamation was 'inadequate to prevent the use of the imperial title in Her Majesty's dominions other than India, was discussed this evening. After an animated debate, in which Sir William Harcourt and the Marquis of Hartington supported Mr. James, the Prime Minister and Mr. Hardy opposing, Mr. James' motion for a vote of censure against Government was rejected by 334 votes against 226. During a debate on affairs in Khokand, Sir Henry Havelock declared that our native army in India was in a rotten condition and officered] entirely on false principles to which Lord George Hamilton rejoined that our native army was never in a more efficient state than at present. Sir Henry Havelock asked this evening for production of a copy of the despatches from the Viceroy upon which his opinion was based. Lord George Hamilton replied that the reports recently received containing the opinions of Lord Northbrook, Lord Napier of Magdalla, and other authorities on military matters were being considered and would shortly be submitted to the house. No changes of an organic character were proposed, but only the best means for increasing the efficiency of the native army.

12*th* The reception accorded to the Prince of Wales on his return from India was of the heartiest description. his Royal Highness drove from the Railway station straight to Buckingham Palace, where the Queen awaited his arrival. In the evening there was a grand gala at the Opera.

20*th*—The Banquet given in honor of the Prince of Wales' return from India by the Corporation City of London, came off last evening at Guildhall, and was a most brilliant affair. Covers had been laid for 500 guests. His Royal Highness, replying to the toast of the evening said, he looked back to his visit to India with the greatest gratification, and although his stay in that country was unhappily only a short one, he had gathered much valuable knowledge. His reception by all classes had been of the kindest and most hospitable description, and his own feelings could not sufficiently thank the Native Princes and peoples of India for the manner of his reception. Indeed the kindness of his reception had left a lasting impression on his memory, and he felt sure it was a sign that the Indian Empire not disloyal to the Queen. In concluding his speech His Royal Highness made a complimentary allusion to the Native Troops. The guests, at a splendid ball, which followed in a grand pavilion, specially erected at Guildhall yard, numbered 5,000.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy will hold a Levee at Simla on the 27th instant in honor of the Queen's Birthday.

WE HAVE received from Babu Kalinath Dutt a rejoinder to our article on the Mahishmari road. We hope to give it in our next.

SIR STUART HOGG prohibited a Christian Missionary from preaching on the strand road on the ground that the crowd assembled was an obstruction. We are of opinion that open-air preaching on a public thoroughfare ought not to be allowed without a license from the Police Commissioner.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1 Further notes on the Rungpore Records, Vol II. by E. G. Glazier, Esq, C. S. Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Rungpore. 2. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal XLV. Part II. No. II. 1876. 3. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society No. IV. April 1876. 4. Poverty of India, Part II. read before the Bombay Branch of the East India Association on 27th April 1876 by Dadabhai Naoroji. 5. Protection of life and property from Lightning during thunderstorms, written and compiled by W. McGregor, Government of India Telegraph Department. 6. The Sixteenth Report of the Bengal Christian Family Pension Fund for 1875 with appendix. 7. Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Bombay Branch of the East India Association held on the 31st March 1876 together with the Report of the managing committee for the years 1871-72, 73-74, and 74-75 and accounts from 1st January 1871 to 31st December 1875. 8. The National Magazine for January 1876 Vol. I. Part 10. 9. Banga Mohila, a Bengali monthly Journal for Boisakh 1283 B. S.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MAY 22, 1876.

## THE EMPRESS OF INDIA.

THE following Royal Proclamation has been issued announcing the assumption of the title of Empress of India by Queen Victoria dated the 28th April 1876:

BY THE QUEEN.

*Proclamation.*

VICTORIA—Whereas an Act has been passed in the present Session of Parliament, entitled an Act to enable Her Most Gracious Majesty to make an addition to the Royal style and titles appertaining to the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom and its Dependencies, which Act recites that by the Act for union of Great Britain and Ireland, it was provided that after such union the Royal style and titles appertaining to the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom and its Dependencies should be such as His Majesty by His Royal Proclamation under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom should be pleased to appoint; and which Act also recites that by virtue of the said Act and of a Royal Proclamation under the Great Seal, dated the 1st day of January, 1801, our present style and titles are "Victoria, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith;" and which Act also recites that by the Act for the better government of India, it was enacted that the Government of India, theretofore vested in the East India Company, in trust for us, should become vested in us, and that India should henceforth be governed by us and in our name, and that it is expedient that there should be a recognition of the transfer of Government so made by means of an addition to be made to our style and titles, and which Act, after the said recitals, enacts that it shall be lawful for us with a view to such recognition as aforesaid of the transfer of the Government of India by our Royal Proclamation under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, to make such addition to the style and titles at present appertaining to the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom and its Dependencies as to us may seem meet, we have thought fit by and with the advice of our Privy Council to appoint and declare, and we do hereby, by and with the said advice, appoint and declare that henceforth so far as conveniently may be on all occasions, and in all instruments wherein our style and titles are used, save and except all charters, commissions, letters patent, grants, writs, appointments, and other like instruments not extending in their operation beyond the United Kingdom, the following addition shall be made to the style and titles at present appertaining to the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom and its Dependencies, that is to say, in the Latin tongue in these words "Indiæ Imperatrix," and in the English tongue in these words "Empress of India," and our will and pleasure further is that the said addition shall not be made in the commissions, charters, letters patent, grants, writs, appointments, and other like instruments herein before specially excepted, and our will and pleasure further is that all gold, silver, and copper moneys now current, and lawful moneys of the United Kingdom, and all gold, silver, and copper moneys which shall on or after this day be coined by our authority with the like impressions, shall notwithstanding such addition to our style and titles be deemed and taken to be current and lawful moneys of the said United Kingdom, and further that all moneys coined for and issued in any of the Dependencies of the said United Kingdom, and declared by our Proclamation to be current and lawful money of such Dependencies respectively, bearing our style or titles or any part or parts thereof, and all moneys which shall hereafter be coined and issued according to such Proclamation, shall notwithstanding such addition continue to be lawful and current money of such Dependencies respectively, until our pleasure shall be further declared thereupon.

Given at our Court at Windsor the twentyeighth day, of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six in the thirty-ninth year of our reign.

God Save the Queen

We had thought that a separate Proclamation would be issued to the princes and peoples of India inasmuch as the title was derived from India. Perhaps the time for the issue of such a Proclamation has not yet passed away; it may be issued on the Queen's Birth-day. The Proclamation already issued shews that the title may be used for all parts of the Queen's dominions except the United Kingdom as well as in any diplomatic correspondence. The assumption of the title is certainly a compliment to India, and we confess we do not share the apprehensions of those, who see in the new title a more rigorous despotism than was before associated with the British rule of India. The constitution of the United Kingdom remains unchanged, and the letter and spirit of the law under which India is governed are therefore unchanged. We observe that Bombay has taken the lead in proposing an address of congratulation to Her Imperial Majesty on the assumption of the new title, and we hope other leading towns of India will follow the example. God bless the Empress of India!

## THE PROTEST AGAINST THE FAMINE POLICY.

GLORIOUS are the inconsistencies of human nature. The Government failed in its duty to the people during the Orissa Famine of 1865-66; the public cried for a Commission of Enquiry, and the public cry was satisfied by the appointment of a Commission. The moral of the En-

quiry was that should a similar disaster befall the country again the Government ought to be prepared and to save the starving population. But the lesson was soon forgotten. In 1868-69 a considerable portion of Central India was afflicted with drought and scarcity, and the Government, although it did not altogether ignore its duty, moved very slowly and gave its aid very sparingly. If we look to the history of the actions of our Government in affording relief to the people suffering from famine from the beginning of British rule in India to the end of 1868-69, the total cost incurred by Government did not come even to two crores of rupees. We take the following figures from official records :

| YEAR | AMOUNT Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1769-70 ... .. ... ... | 6,50,000 |
| 1837-38 ... ... ... ... | 80,00,000 |
| 1860-61 ... ... ... .. | 10,07,706 |
| 1866-67 ... ... ... .. | 74,20,409 |
| 1868-69 ... ... .. ... | 5,80,107 |
| Total.. | 1,76,58,222 |

The mortality at the lowest computation was about six millions, and this was the trophy which the past famine policy of the British Government had raised in India. The English nation were justly ashamed of it, and the moment the news of an impending famine in Bengal in 1873 reached England, there was a cry raised through the United Kingdom that the Governor General of India should be held directly responsible, should a single life be lost from starvation. The Governor General also rose equal to the occasion ; the moment he received the intelligence of the coming disaster he returned in breathless haste to his post in Calcutta, and did not quit it until the campaign against the Famine was brought to a successful close. Never was a greater moral victory achieved by an English statesman and never did the moral character of the English nation shine with brighter color than in the successful suppression of the Bengal Famine of 1873-74. But such is the inconsistency of human nature that the very merits of those officers, who at so much trouble, risk, and self-sacrifice vindicated the character of the British Government and British nation, are considered by some as their greatest demerits, and while the cry in 1866 was to hang those who did not do their duty, the cry in 1876 is to hang those who have done their duty ! Could any thing be more humiliating, mortifying and inconsistent than this ?

Nobody we believe will deny—not even the staunchest supporter of the Famine policy—that there was waste of money, but the question is—could it have been foreseen and prevented ? We have become wise after the event, but is it reasonable or just to condemn now those, who had worked without the light of the present day, but who nevertheless did not miss their aim ? Their primary object was to save human life, and they did so with the most complete success. Errors were inevitable in the gigantic operations undertaken by the Government, and these errors led to waste of money, but the cause was a noble one, it was such as had never before been tried by the British Government in India,—and its very holiness ought to cover the mistakes or excesses which might have been committed. Lord Northbrook himself admitted in his Resolution on the Famine minutes of Sir Richard Temple that the anticipation of the effects of the scarcity was found to be somewhat greater than the reality from two causes. The stock of food in the hands of the people turned out to be larger than was anticipated ; and sufficient allowance was not made for the extraordinary exertions which were used by the cultivators to grow a greater quantity than usual of the grain crops which ripen in the autumn. It was impossible to reckon beforehand upon either of these circumstances ; but the experience that has now been gained shows, *firstly*, that where a scarcity follows a fair season, considerable supplies of food will probably be in the possession of the people, and therefore, sufficient time may be reckoned upon for the purpose of organizing the relief which may ultimately be required ; and, *secondly*, that the cultivators of the soil in India are able and willing to make considerable alterations in their agriculture for the sake of increasing the food-supply at the earliest possible moment, by which means the period over which the scarcity would otherwise extend is considerably shortened. The outturn of the autumn crops of 1874 was further increased by the unusual quantity of rain that fell early in the season. Now, the best information available to Government, that is from experienced local officers, planters, zemindars, mahajuns, and intelligent ryots, was of one unvarying tune, and are we justified in condemning Government for accepting the general opinion ?

We may say there are three parties to the controversy regarding the famine : 1stly those who do not believe in the reality of the famine, 2ndly those who, while admitting the existence of the famine, hold that it could have been met at half the outlay the Government has incurred, and 3rdly those who maintain that there has been so much waste of money because Lord Northbrook was jealous of Sir George Campbell. Now the first party consists of those extreme men, who will not believe anything unless it be proved like a mathametical demonstration. But the forecaste of a famine is not susceptible of mathematical proof. It must rest on probabilities, and in taking into account the probabilities, we should of course take the best information available. This the Government did. The rainfall in 1873 was scanty, the rain did not begin till late that is in July, and even then it was very deficient ; it ceased prematurely in August, and in the months of September, October and November when heavy showers were needed for insuring the maturity of rice crops of December there was almost a total failure of the rain. It was thus apparent that the drought, which was general, would be followed with the scarcity of food, and the local officers gave most gloomy accounts of the position of their districts. The Government, which had from the beginning resolved to save the lives of its subjects, lost no time in making arrangements for the transport of rice into the distressed districts. The arrangements were made with such foresight, care, and judgment that no life was lost, and the very success achieved by Government has been deduced as a proof of the want of necessity for them. The sceptics, who deny the existence of the famine, would have parhaps been satisfied if as in 1866 Calcutta had been invaded by an army of paupers, and the bones of the starved wretches had whitened the roads and fields. Fortunately their heartless scepticism did not rule the day, and the cause of humanity triumphed.

The second party occupies the position of those who pretend to be wise after the event. It is now easy enough to collate and compare the facts which have since traspired, and to say that although there was disaster in the country it could have been met at a much smaller cost. But these men forget that when the crisis was impending over the country every moment was precious, and that whatever the cost those, who were responsible for the lives of the Queen's subjects, could not think of money when precious time was passing away. They were in the situation of a besieged city, and when they carried human lives in their hands as it were, it was no time for them to think of the value of the articles they sacrificed in order to purchase safety. They were watching the market, and it was their duty to lay in stocks wherever there was a deficiency of food-supply. And to lay in stocks it was necessary in the first place to provide for immediate supply, in the second place to give facilities of transport, and in the third place to secure a fair distribution of food. These three operations required the utmost resources in men and money, and the cost to the State was necessarily considered a matter of secondary importance. When military expeditions are fitted out on the issues of which hangs the independence or glory of the nation, does the nation look to the money cost of such expeditions ? Money flowed like water when for instance the Abyssinian Expedition was fitted out,—it cost much more than the Bengal Famine of 1873-74—but who had the hardihood to challenge Lord Napier's accounts, when his arms were covered with glory, though the victory was obtained without a single battle ? The issues were much more important in the campaign against the Famine of 1873-74. The lives of millions of people were involved in the struggle, and there was consequently no time for cool calculations. We now see that there was room for economy, that there was plunder made by unscrupulous persons, that there was fraud and deception, but honesty is not a common commodity. If to do were as easy as to preach, the world would have been very different from what it was. It should be remembered that the Government was placed in a trying position at the time. On the one hand it had no experience of conducting such gigantic operations, no knowledge of the actual resources of the people, and no ready agency for facing unexampled difficulties, and on the other hand the greatest pressure was being put upon it by the Home Government and the English public to make the widest preparations possible in order to ensure against the loss of a single life. The most extensive preparations it had made were considered inadequate, and the Secretary of State most vehemently urged it on to spare no money for completing its arrangements. Thus on the 19th March 1874 Lord Salisbury wrote : "I feel great anxiety, in which you will fully share, that no precaution should be neglected, by which the danger still impending over so many millions of people may be effectually averted. You have had to make suddenly, and on an unprecedented scale, provision both for the supply and for the transport of food. The deficiencies of transport from which your present difficulties have principally arisen will scarcely be diminished as time goes on, but will, on the contrary, be rather aggravated when the rains have fallen and the roads have become less serviceable. Against this danger you have provided at least partially, by commencing a railway from the river side opposite the Barrh Station to Durbungah, and by ordering the construction in England of ten steamers with five barges attached, to be delivered in India, so as to be able to navigate the secondary rivers when the water rises. I am satisfied that you will spare neither cost nor labor in carrying out any other plans for facilitating the transport of grain into the distressed districts, which the local knowledge of your officers may suggest." Again, the Governor General had written that he had provided for a supply of 420,000 tons of rice to meet an estimated demand of 413,000 tons. but Lord Salisbury argued—"it seems probable that 420,000 tons will fall considerably short of the quantity required. With the starvation of multitudes as the possible penalty of a mistake, I am convinced that you will not trust to any exact calculation. There are numerous contingencies which may diminish your supply, or may increase the demand upon you. A liberal allowance must be made for the possible failure of the arrivals on which you count, for the shrinkage of transport, for the chance of accident, for the loss that may result by the damage of rice by rain, for the mistakes of those who act under you. On the other hand, it may possibly be that the calculation on which you are relying will fall short of the truth. The area or the duration of the distress with which it is your duty to deal may be larger than you anticipate. Past experience will not lead you to place unbounded trust on the estimates that are supplied to you. It is impossible to assume with certainty that the tendency to an inadequate appreciation of the danger, which you have already noted in some of your local officers, has altogether ceased to operate. These considerations lead me to apprehend that your supplies, as hitherto reported to me, are not sufficient to protect you against the possibility of a serious deficiency. They may be adequate if the most favorable anticipations should be justified by the event, but if any unforeseen aggravation of your difficulties were to occur, your Government might be involved in embarrassment of the gravest character." Under such peremptory orders from the Home Government what could the Government of India do ? Could it defy the Secretary of State and obstimately stick to its own estimates, which who could say might have been falsified by actual results ? Accordingly the Governor General was obliged to increase the food-supply. It is true that the responsibility for the administration of the famine was divided. It was however fully present in the mind of each responsible officer that a solemn and sacred duty lay before him, and in proportion to the higher position of each governing authority the sense of responsibility was

increased. One thing was patent in all, *viz.*, the desire to do duty and to save life.

The third party maintains that Lord Northbrook was jealous of SirGeorge Campbell, and that his unworthy jealousy was the cause of waste of money. Now, those who belong to this party either do not know the facts or knowing them do not like to acknowledge them. The primary cause of difference between Sir George Campbell and Lord Northbrook was the question of the prohibition of the export of rice. Instead of instituting careful enquiries as to old stores, resources of the people, and facilities of communications, which would have been mos useful at the time, and which Sir George Campbell did not set on foot in right earnest until goaded by the Viceroy as the report of the Conference at Government House held on the 8th January 1874 shews, he concentrated his whole energy upon the export question, as if it had been conceded it would have saved the country from the evils of the Famine. Sir George Campbell we do not hesitate to say wasted three precious months on the comparatively unimportant question of the prohibition of the export of rice. He also allowed his criticisms to leak out through favoured organs in the press, and thus in the beginning of the struggle we had the unfortunate and unseemly spectacle of the two Governments pulling against each other and the friendly office of dividing the council performed by the Serampore *Friend*. On the other hand the Lieutenant Governor had not taken sufficient precautions for transport arrangements, for the movement of rice, and for relief organisation, regarding all of which we refer the reader to Famine Blue-book Part II. In this volume he will find how categorically were Sir George Campbell and his Secretary questioned by the Governor-General, how judiciouly and promptly were orders issued by the latter on all important points, and how necessary it became when the crisis thickened and Sir George Campbell's health gave way to have on the spot an officer upon whom the Governor-General could place implicit reliance. The officer selected was Sir Richard Temple. Sir George Campbell himself acknowledged the services rendered by Sir Richard Temple. In the special narrative of the Drought dated the 19th February 1874 Sir George Campbell wrote: "Sir Richard Temple's deputation to Behar has borne much good fruit, and the result of his operations will be noticed before proceeding to the ordinary topics of the narrative. He found the condition of the people in the three northern sub-divisions to be bad; he accepted the estimate of the local officers, that nearly one-half the population of these tracts (or close upon one million of people) would be upon the hands of Government. He considered that to supply them four millions of maunds (about 148,000 tons) of Government grain would be required before the rains, and that arrangements ought to be made for five millions of maunds so as to provide against misadventure. He sanctioned arrangements whereby local contractors were to carry 2,00,000 maunds (about 7,400 tons) a week into the north-east of Tirhoot; he called for tenders from the North-Western Provinces to carry a further amount; and he very strongly urged the immediate construction of a tramway from Chumpta Ghat (opposite the Barh station of theEast Indian Railway) toDurbhanga, and beyond Durbhanga into theMadhobaneeSeetamurhee subdivisions. The proposed line of tramway has been examined by Mr. Molesworth, the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, who recommends that a light railway to be worked by engine-power should at once be laid down from Chumpta Ghat to Durbhanga, a distance of 44 miles. The Government of India has ordered the work to be taken in hand at once on the metre gauge; the roadway to carry the line will be put in order by Mr. Stevens, the Durbhanga Engineer; a full staff of engineers, platelayers, and subordinates has been ordered down from the Delhi State Railway; they are to be ready to take the field at once; material is being sent up to Barh, and nothing is left undone that can secure the early completion of the line. The Lieutenant-Governor has instructed the Commissioner so to arrange the carrying power of the country as to lift the railway material promptly, with as little hindrance as many be to the grain transport along the route which the railway takes." Again: "Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 5th February shows the orders he has given for organizing relief committees in the distressed parts of Tirhoot. The most afflicted tracts are divided into circles containing about 100 square miles of country; at a convenient site in the middle of each circle a temporary house is being erected, whereat is to be lodged the European officer charged with relief operation, who will be responsible for constantly inspecting and relieving all the villages of his circle. For some of the circles the entire superintendence of relief operations will be entrusted to planters, who have liberally and cordially offered their services for the work. The Lieutenant-Governor has fully accepted and acted on all Sir Richard Temple's arrangements for Tirhoot. He had only doubted whether relief on so very liberal a scale was within the means of Government, and no doubt if the estimates for other districts had been at all in the same proportion as that for Tirhoot, the quantity of grain required would have been far larger than that for which the Government of India has yet arranged, and larger than the Railway could transport to the neighbourhood of the distressed country. The estimates for the other districts being, however, more moderate, the quantity required for Tirhoot may be supplied from Calcutta and the North-Western Provinces together, if we can only manage sufficient transport into the interior. Now that the distress becomes more localised, we can do more for the specially distressed tracts than could have been done if there had been a far more extending need for large relief. The population of the most distressed tract of North Behar, in the districts of Tirhoot Chumparun, and Bhaugulpore, is about three and a half millions (say something more than the population of Orissa) for whom it is proposed to provide about six millions maunds of grain, say 225,000 tons. It may possibly not be beyond the means of a great Government to feed such a population." Sir Richard Temple found that the condition of the extreme north of Chumparun was very bad, but that to the south of the district matters were much better, and Sir George Campbell wrote, "he accepts the estimate of the local officers that on an average about 217,000 people will be in one way or another on the Government fore hands of eight months or 400,000 in the worst times. He estimates that one million maunds of grain will be required for their relief; and he (Sir George Campbell) has accepted the arrangement under which 50,000 maunds of Government grain per week are being sent up to Patna for despatch to Chumparun. He found that the local carriage contractors would probably be able to fulfil their engagement to carry this amount weekly as there was an abundance of carts in the district. Sir Richard Temple expressed his belief that water-carriage by the Gunduck river, though a resource of some importance when the snows melt and the river rises a little, was not secure enough to warrant the abandonment of land carriage. The Lieutenant-Governor has accepted all SirRichard Temple's plans for Chumparun, and has suggested that, if the spring crops turn out well, Chumparun might draw some supplies from Oude and the North-Western Provincess *via* Durowlee ghat on the Gogra. Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 12th February on the Sarun district will be found at Appendix C. The measures arranged by Sir Richard Temple are being carried out, and 5,000 maunds of grain have been despatched daily to Arrah since the 12th February. As he travelled along the Nepal frontier, Sir Richard Temple's attention was directed to the distress among the people across the Tirhoot border. It appeared that there was risk of grave distress there, and Sir Richard Temple suggested that the Government should help the Nepal Durbar to import food for their distressed subjects. The Lieutenant Governor, when submitting the question to the Government of India, expressed his opinion that distressed Napalese should be received at our works, relieved by our charity, and treated at our hospitals just as British subjects, and that no distinction could be made between applicants for aid, on whichever side of the border they happened to dwell. The Government of India accepted this view, and at the same time offered the Nepal Durbar 1,000 tons of Government rice at cost Price, provided the Nepalese would carry it away from the Patna railway." Sir George Campbell adds, "it would be seen from the foregoing paragraphs that Sir Richard Temple has, with the utmost activity and energy, visited the more distressed tracts of the Patna division. He has discussed with the local officers the condition of affairs on the spot; he has decided all questions as they arose with a promptitude and clearness which the Lieutenant-Governor cannot sufficiently acknowledge."

These extracts shew how much had been left undone by Sir George Campbell and how much was done by Sir Richard Temple, and yet there are people who openly allege that Lord Northbrook did not support Sir George Campbell from a feeling of mean jealousy. At a crisis like that of 1873-74 personal feeling could have no room for play; all were animated by a common desire for the common good. It is true that Lord Northbrook relied upon Sir Richard Temple, but we have Sir George C mpbell's own testimony that Sir Richard Temple did good service, particularly when we see that he himself endorsed and acted upon almost all the suggestions made by Sir Richard. In the face of these stubborn facts could any thing be more ridiculous and immoral than to throw dirt upon any of the leading actors in this melancholy drama by attributing to them unworthy motives and impure personal considerations? The Bengal Famine of 1873-74 has cost the State 6½ millions, but the Irish Famine cost England 10 millions, —could it be said that there was no waste in Irish relief, and was there a protest against this enormous expenditure?

## THE KOCH BIHAR STATE.

THE management of this State offers a good illustration of the beneficent effects of British administration. When the State was taken over by the Bengal Government, its revenue amounted to less than five lakhs, and disorder and confusion reigned everywhere. The revenues from all sources now amount to about 15 lakhs of rupees, and a regular system of administration has been introduced. The credit of this splendid success is chiefly due to Major-General Haughton, the late Commissioner of Koch Bihar. Captain Lewin, the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Koch Bihar, has written a very readable account of the State, from which we glean the following: The tract of country known as Cooch Behar (more properly spelt Koch Bihar) is bounded on the north by the Western Dwars, *i. e.* the Himalayan 'terai' taken from the Bhutan Government in the war of 1863-64; on the south by the Rangpur District: on the east by the Assam District of Goalpara; and on the west by the Julpiguri District, Latitude 26° 19' 86° Longitude 89° 28' 53. The revenue. magisterial, and civil jurisdictions being counterminous. The Koch Bihar State, before the present dynasty, is said to have formed a part of the Ratnapit division of the kingdom of Kamrup. The name Koch Bihar is derivable from the Sanskrit word বিহার bihar, *pleasure, amusement*. Hence Koch Bihar or Koch Bihar *bhumi* would mean the place or plains of amusement of the Koch people. The area of the State is about 1306 square miles, or 836,215 acres, of this about two-thirds are under cultivation. Koch Bihar is a tributary State paying to the British Government an annual sum of Rupees 67,700-15-0. This Tribute is levied under a treaty made on the 5th April 1773, and was computed as half the income of the State at that time. The land revenue of the State however has subsequently risen until in 1873-74 it reached Rs. 4,84,205. The area of the Koch Bihar State is 1306 square miles or 8,36,215 acres with a population of 5,82,565 or about 408 persons to the square mile, or ·63, (that is something less than one person) to an acre. The mass of the population consist of Rajbongsis or Koch *i. e.* the indigenous inhabitants, and Mahomedans, with a minority of other castes. Out of a total of 1,76,396 adult males, there are 1,11,124 of the former to 48,086 of the latter, leaving only 17,186 of other castes. The names of the several Rajas of Koch Bihar since the time of Chundun and Bishu Sing early in the 16th century of the Christian æra are given below:—

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Chandan ..... | A. D. | 1510 | Reigned | 13 years. |
| 2 | Bishu Sing ..... | ,, | 1523 | ,, | 31 ,, |
| 3 | Nur Narain ..... | ,, | 1554 | ,, | 33 ,, |
| 4 | Lackhi Narain ..... | ,, | 1587 | ,, | 34 ,, |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Bir Narain..... | " | 1621 | " | 5 " |
| 6 | Pran Narain..... | " | 1626 | " | 39 " |
| 7 | Mod Narain..... | " | 1665 | " | 15 " |
| 8 | Basudeb Narain..... | " | 1680 | " | 2 " |
| 9 | Mohindro Narain ... | " | 1682 | " | 12 " |
| 10 | Rup Narain ..... | " | 1694 | " | 20 " |
| 11 | Opendro Narain.... | " | 1714 | " | 49 " |
| 12 | Debendro Narain ... | " | 1763 | " | 2 " |
| 13 | Dhurjindro Narain... | " | 1765 | " | 5 " |
| 14 | Rajendro Narain.. | " | 1770 | " | 2 " |
| 15 | Dhurindro Narain.. | " | 1772 | " | 2 " |
| 16 | Dhurjindro Narain.. | " | 1774 | " | 9* " |
| 17 | Harendro Narain... | " | 1783 | " | 56 " |
| 18 | Shibindro Narain ... | " | 1832 | " | 8 " |
| 19 | Narindro Narain... | " | 1847 | " | 4 " |
| 20 | Nripendro Narain .. | " | 1863 | " | ... "† |

*This Raja is entered as having reigned twice he having been dethroned and again reinstated.

†The present Minor Raja.

Bishu Sing's son Nur Narain extended his empire east over all Lower Assam; he also repaired and added to the great temple of Kamakhya situated near the ancient city of Pragjyotsha, the modern Gauhati, and at this time the kingdom of the Koches must have embraced the greater part of Dinajpur, Rungpur, and all the countries which once formed the ancient kingdom of Kamrup. Dr. Buchanan says that Bishu Sing was the original conqueror and that he divided the kingdom giving all west of the Sunkosh river to his son Nur Narain and east of that river to Chela Rai, his other son. From this latter prince are descended the Rajas of Darang, who governed the present districts of Kamrup and Darang, sometimes as independent princes, and sometimes as tributaries either of the Moghul sovereigns or of the Ahom dynasty of Assam, as the arms of either power prevailed. The country comprised by the State of Koch Bihar extends in a uniform, open, and well cultivated plain, the soil of which is very light and in some places sandy, similar on the whole to that of the adjoining districts of Rungpur and Jalpaiguri. The principal cereal crop is rice, but a large quantity of tobacco is cultivated, besides jute, mustard-seed, pulse, and a little wheat. The tobacco is of excellent quality, and forms indeed the chief article of export from the State. Bamboos grow extensively all over the country, and form the fuel supply of the people, besides being used largely in the building of their houses, fences, &c. Trees as a rule are scarce, but much has been done of late years, by forming plantations of valuable timber trees to provide for future supply. The rates for the different classes of land are as follows: 1. For homesteads and garden lands Rs. 2-8 per bigah. 2. For lands on which bamboos grow, Rs. 1-2 per bigah. 3. For other cultivated lands, including grass lands, Rs. 0-8 per bigah. For fallow and jungle land, one anna per bigah. These rates were, after a voluminous correspondence, sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in 1872. Formerly the *jotedars* were liable for miscellaneous local customary charges, which amounted to one-sixth over and above their total rent charge, but under the present rules, they make a fixed annual payment, at the above rates, for whatever land they occupy. The Raja is the owner of the soil, and stands much in the same position to the *jotedars*, as a zemindar in Lower Bengal. The different classes of cultivators found in the State of Koch Bihar are as follows:— 1. *Jotedars*. 2. *Chukanidars*. 3. *Dur-chukanidars*. 4. *Dura-dur-chukanidars*. 5. *Tosio-chukanidars*. 6. *Adhiars*. The different classes of under-tenants enjoy the tenant right. The last class *adhiar* or *prujah* is more like an agricultural laborer. He cultivates the land on condition that he gets half the produce of the land. Sir George Campbell however ruled that *adhiars*, who cultivate with their own cattle for twelve consecutive years, should acquire occupancy right in their fields. Koch Bihar had formerly its own currency. In 1788 it is stated, twenty-eight or thirty thousand Naraini half rupees were coined. The quantity annually minted, appeared to depend upon the rate of exchange, at which French Arcot rupees were procurable, as from this coin, after some further alloy, was manufactured the Naraini rupee; and as the Arcot rupee contained originally some 55 per cent. of copper, the intrinsic value of the silver in the Naraini rupee but little exceeded half its own weight. The Naraini coins passed current throughout Koch Bihar and the neighbouring districts of Goalpara, Rungpur, Jalpaiguri, &c. No gold coins appear to have been issued into currency from the mint. A few years after, the Bengal Government imposed restrictions, nearly amounting to entire suppression, on the mint of Koch Bihar on the ground that the coin issued therefrom was of so debased a quality as to be entirely depreciated as a currency, beyond the southern limits of the District. The prerogative of striking and issuing coin under the image and superscription of the reigning prince is still however nominally exercised, a certain number of gold and silver coins being struck upon the accession of each new Raja. The Naraini rupee is no longer current, nor is its value used as a denomination in accounts, the currency of the country being now the same as in British Regulation Districts.

The administration of the State during the Raja's minority is conducted, by a covenanted officer of the Civil or Military service, under the title of Superintendent of the State, who acts under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division. With this exception all the officials of the State are natives. The Revenue Department is managed by the Dewan of the State, Babu Kalika Dass Dutt, B.A., B.L., who was appointed on the 23rd August, 1869. In the Judicial Department, Babu Jadhub Chunder Chakravati exercises the full powers of a Magistrate under the title of Foujdari Ahilkar. On the Civil side, Babu Ram Chunder Ghose, acts as Judge or Dewany Ahilkar; this last named officer was employed in the State before it came under the management of Government. There are three Sub-divisions in the State, viz. 1. Mekliganj; 2. Dinhata; 3. Matabhanga; which are in charge of officers called Naib-Ahilkars; these officers have powers similar to those exercised by Sub-district Deputy Collectors, and Deputy Magistrates, in the Bengal Regulation Districts. The Education Department is presided over by Babu Kasikanth Mukerji. The sanitary condition of Koch Bihar is watched over by a Civil Surgeon (who may be either European or Native) under whom, are a native Assistant-Surgeon, and four native doctors, who are distributed throughout the State in charge of the several local dispensaries. There is only one jail in the State, situated at the town of Koch Bihar and under the charge of the Native Magistrate or Foujdari Ahilkar. Among many great reforms which have been introduced since the State has been under British supervision, the following are the most noteworthy; the re-arrangement and re-settlement of the Land Revenue:—the State having been thoroughly surveyed and all tenures and rights recorded. By these operations the land revenue has been raised from Rupees 307,454. in 1863-64 to a prospective income of about 9 lacs of rupees in 1878-79. The English Law Codes have been introduced, subject to such alterations as local custom or prejudice rendered necessary. The Courts both Civil and Criminal have been officered by picked native officials, paid by the State, but chosen from among the best men of the Government subordinate executive service. The Police of the State have been re-organized and established on a proper and efficient footing under a highly-paid native Superintendent of proved ability. The Police Department comprises a native Superintendent, with a force of two Inspectors, seven Sub-Inspectors, twenty one Head-constables, and one hundred eighty-nine Constables. There are four Police Stations and five Out-posts. The education of the people has been by no means neglected. There now exist 245 schools and 6497 scholars in the State in the year 1874-75 as compared with 1 school and 36 pupils in the year 1864, or 46 schools and 1486 pupils in 1871. Good carriage roads have been laid out connecting the District with adjacent commercial centres; rivers have been bridged; plantations of valuable timber trees have been made; and an efficient system of postal and telegraphic communication established.

The success of the administration of the Koch Bihar State is due to a happy combination of European and Indian talents. The European is the general superintendent, the Bengali is the immediate executant of details. The two work in harmony, because both appreciate each other's capacity. The European lends his energy, decision of character and prestige, the Bengali his knowledge, administrative capacity, tact and temper. The result is highly creditable to both.

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## DR. MONIER WILLIAMS ON INDIA.

We had hoped that the intellectual phalanx which had followed H. R. H. the Prince of Wales in his recent tour through India would do the work of a Royal Commission, but we have been disappointed. The special correspondents have contented themselves with giving only accounts of the feasting and feting, with which H. R. H. was entertained wherever he went. They have not troubled themselves about the condition of the people, their wants and wishes, and they have not consequently enlightened the English nation a whit more than they were before. But such has not been the case with the Boden Professor of Sanscrit in the University of Oxford. His studies have naturally enough induced in him a sympathy with India, its peoples and institutions, and the impressions which he has carried from the East do honor to his head and heart. These impressions he has communicated to the English public in the shape of a letter to the *Times*, and they indicate an acute observation, a breadth of mind, and a genial sympathy which our countrymen deeply appreciate. Beginning with the climate he says, "India, which is in all respects a complete world in itself, seems to include all the climates of all countries. Far from being 'deadly' (at least, from November to March), as it is sometimes described, I believe the winter climate of India to be more salubrious than that of England. Perpetual sunshine, balmy breezes, perfect dryness of air and soil, with lovely flowers and beautiful foliage constantly before the eyes, cannot fail to exhilarate the spirits and benefit the health. Many invalids, who habitually resort to Italy to escape the damp and gloom of an English winter, would do well to visit India occasionally." As regards physical features he says "that in India we have an epitome of the whole world. Where can be found more wonderful contrasts, where such amazing variety? Monotonous plains, sandy deserts, fertile fields, immense districts wooded like English parks, forest, grove, and jungle, gentle undulation, hill and dale, rock, crag, precipice, snowy peak—everything is here." Taking of animal and plant life he asks, "how is it that zoologists and botanists do not come by scores to this country and revel in the rich fare—the endless variety spread out in every direction, and asking to be enjoyed and appreciated." He makes the following remarks on the character of the people: "I have found no people in Europe more religious—none more patiently persevering in common duties, none more docile and amenable to authority, none more courteous or respectful towards age and learning, none more dutiful to parents, none more intelligent. Superstition, immorality, untruthfulness, pride, selfishness, all these and other faults and vices, of course, abound, but not more than they do in other countries unpenetrated by the spirit of true Christianity, and not more than will be found among those merely nominal Christians who, after all, constitute the real mass of the people in Europe." He thus makes a running commentary on the different religions prevalent in India. He says that "Brahmanism with the educated classes means either pure pantheism, or a kind of pantheistic theism." Buddhism, he observes, "is a modification of Brahmanism, and has much in common with it, especially in its asceticism and respect for animal life, but has no Supreme Being, no caste, no sacrifices. Pure Buddhism does not exist any longer in India." With regard to Islam, he remarks, about 41 millions of the inhabitants of India are Mahomedans. "They are chiefly the result of a forced conversion from Hinduism by the Mahomedan conquerors, and they are much Hinduized in their habits and ways. With regard to Christianity and its prospects in India, I will only say that I believe the best work done by the missionaries is in their schools. Education is, indeed, causing a great upheaving of old creeds and superstitions throughout India, and the ancient fortress of Hinduism is in this way being gradually undermined. The educated classes look with contempt on idolatry. In fact, the present condition of India seems very similar to that of the Roman Empire before the coming of Christ. A complete disintegration of ancient faiths is in progress in the upper strata of society. Most of the ablest thinkers become

pure Theists or Unitarians. In almost every large town there is a *Samaj*, or society of such men, whose creed would be well expressed by the first part of the 1st Article of the Church of England. They retain the name Brahma as applicable to the Supreme Being, but they regard him as a personal god, to be addressed by prayer as well as praise. No sooner, however, is a *Samaj* formed, than, as is usual in India, it splits up into subdivisions, some founding their theism on the Veda, others partially appealing to it, and others rejecting it altogether. Even great leaders like Keshab Chundra Sen are unable to unite all Indian Theists into one body. Christianity has made most progress among people of low caste and with some of the aboriginal tribes. Real conversions are certainly uncommon, nor will they, in my opinion, be more common until our religion is presented to the Hindus in that more simple. Oriental form which originally belonged to it on its first foundation at Jerusalem. It is even a question whether a certain amount of caste feeling might not be tolerated among Indian converts." Regarding the administration of the country Dr. Monier Williams justly says: "No one can travel in India and shut his eyes to the benefits conferred on its inhabitants by English rule. I believe that in no part of the world is so much work done, and so well and conscientiously done, and with such a single regard to the discharge of duty, as by the Queen's servants in India. Even men of inferior energy and mental calibre, who, in England, would do little to benefit society, are, by the circumstances of their position in India, drawn out and developed into useful officers and able administrators." But he is not a blind admirer of English rule in India. He remarks: "Yet our very anxiety to do all we can for India may sometimes lead to our doing too much. Formerly the ignorance and apathy of Parliament were of little importance; now its interposition may often complicate our difficulties. Moreover, the possibility of conveying a message backwards and forwards between the India Office and Calcutta in a few hours fosters a forgetfulness of the enormous distance dividing the Western from the Eastern Empire, and of the vast gulf separating the condition of England and of English society and habits of thought from those of India. Hence it is often supposed that Western ideas may be suddenly transfused into an Eastern mind, and English institutions abruptly transplanted to an Indian soil, when neither the one nor the other is prepared to receive them. It may certainly be questioned whether we are not prone to too much and too frequent legislation, and whether, in many places, we are not 50, or even 100, years too early with some of our laws and regulations, with our civil courts and trials by jury, and appeals to supreme tribunals, and modern municipal institutions." In other words the Government proceeds at too rapid a pace for the people. Dr. Monier Williams might have added that not a few of the mistakes committed by our rulers arise from defective sympathy. We entirely agree with his conclusion—"what is wanted is a wise and cautious progress, a zeal according to knowledge, a discreet adaptation of legislation to varying conditions of time and place." Dr. Monier Williams does not we are glad to observe agree with those publicists, who seem to think that the Native States are a source of weakness to the British Government, that in case of a rising they will increase its risks and weaken its position. But, he says, "no doubt, in such a case, most of the Maharajas would be individually eager to aid us because they know that their own existence is bound up in ours. Few of them would survive the anarchy that would inevitably follow if we were cruel enough to leave India to govern itself. Hence they would strive to help us." While on this subject the learned Doctor pays a well-merited compliment to His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir. He says: "The Maharaja, whose appearance is handsome and soldier-like, is unwearied in his Royal duties. He rises early, is strict in his devotions, and temperate in his habits, and every morning for several hours may be seen in a room overlooking the courtyard of his palace, surrounded by able advisers, and deligently superintending the affairs of his kingdom. What chiefly deserves mention as distinguishing him from the generality of native Sovereigns is his encouragement of literature. He is the Augustus of Indian Prince. Not only has he established the best native schools I have seen in India for the teaching of Sanscrit, Arabic, Persian, and English, but he has also set up a press, with type foundry, and keeps around him a large staff of Pandits and other learned men who are constantly engaged in translating the best European works into the dialects of the country." With regard to the education of the people Dr. Monier Williams says, "it is commonly said that if we go on educating on our present plan we shall soon lose India. No one will dispute that whatever the consequences may be our duty is to continue educating." He is not however satisfied with the present system of education. He observes: "I fear the work effected is rather information than education—rather informing the mind than forming the character and raising its tone. This sort of education is, in some cases, better than nothing, but too often it inflates young men with conceit, unhinges their faith in their own religion without giving them any other, leads them to despise the calling of their fathers, and to look upon knowledge as a mere stepping stone to Government situations, which they cannot all obtain." Regarding female education he remarks: "The truth simply is that, before we can raise the women of India we must first raise the men. We must do more than inform their minds—we must form their whole character and cast them in a higher mould; and if we cannot convert them to the dogmas of Christianity, we must instil into them Christian ideas and ways of thinking. When we have thus elevated the men, we may safely leave the women to their keeping. The women will then be raised to the level of the men by the act of the men themselves without our interference." Dr. Monier Williams laments the race-feeling subsisting between the Europeans and the Indians. "I am sorry to say that my tour has revealed to me that between the ruler and the ruled in India there is a great gulf fixed, which since the Mutiny has widened and is becoming more and more difficult to be bridged over. There is the feeling naturally springing up between governors and governed. A commanding tone of voice may often be necessary for the maintenance of authority, but I fear we rulers are sometimes unnecessarily imperious and overbearing. Even if we are conscious of our superiority need our bearing towards those we are ruling wound their feelings by making them feel their inferior position? I cannot but think that many Englishmen lord it over their Indian brethren a little too forcibly." We are however constrained to protest against the doctor's assumption that the mass of the people are against the British Government. He says that "the most intelligent are quite ready to admit that they enjoy greater benefits under our rule than they would under any other; and the wiser, who know that universal disorder would follow its cessation, even pray for its continuance; but the mass of unthinking people would rather be badly governed by their own chiefs than well governed by us." This is not correct. The people may be discontented, but are not disaffected. They know well that they will gain nothing by a change of rule, and they do not therefore desire change. At the same time we commend the following to the careful study of our rulers: "Our moral tone and general culture may be higher than that of Indians; but in many points they are our superiors. Let us give them credit for such excellences as they possess, and condescend to admit that good may accrue from some mutual attrition between the two races. Assuredly a better feeling between them must result from consciousness of reciprocal benefits bestowed. One thing at least is certain, that India is given to us to conciliate as well as to elevate, even if she offers us nothing to imitate. In my opinion the great problem that before all others presses for solution in relation to the Queen's Eastern Empire is, how can the rulers and the ruled be drawn closer together? How can more sympathy and cordial feeling be promoted between them?" This is the problem of the hour, and its satisfactory solution rests with the ruling race.

## LORD NORTHBROOK'S COMMERCIAL POLICY.

THE most handsome testimony has been borne to Lord Northbrook's commercial policy by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. In a farewell address the Chamber says, "we had the honour of recalling to your Lordship in person one of the early acts of your Government, in repealing, in January, 1873, the imperial export duty of 3 per cent. on wheat, with the view of encouraging the trade. The result of that liberal measure has been that the export of wheat from Bombay rose from 96,624 cwts. in the year preceding the removal of the duty, to 452,944 cwts. in the year succeeding it, ending 31st March 1874, to 633,681 cwts. in the year ending 31st March 1875, and to about 837,000 cwts. in the year ending 31st March 1876." The Chamber thus supports Lord Northbrook's resolution not to prohibit the export of rice in the famine year: "At the approach of a calamity which threatened the food-supply of a population of 66,000,000, who require about 30,000 tons of food a day, your Lordship might well have shrunk from a responsibility which statesmen of the first rank and with the highest sense of duty, might have lacked the courage and the firmness to undertake. In your celebrated minute, however, dated the 30th January 1874, in which you looked upon the question entirely with reference to the present and future food-supplies of the people, your Lordship concluded that "every measure that would diminish export trade in common rice from Bengal, would weaken the power of the country to meet any future period of scarcity. Trade is easily diverted from one channel to another. The interference of Government with its free course may easily destroy it. If we refuse to supply our ordinary customers at any price, we oblige them to have recourse to other markets, and it is impossible to assume that when we want them again they will return to us." Your Lordship's resolution on that memorable occasion was justified by the successful result of the measures which the Government of India adopted to meet the distress; and we recall with pleasure the enlightened principle then enunciated, as illustrating the wisdom of the policy which has characterized your Lordship's Government, and what is already conferring the greatest benefits on the people of India." The Chamber makes some pregnant observations on the action of Lord Northbrook on the abolition of office of Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce. The Government of India, in its resolution dated 11th November 1874, promulgated:—"It is, no doubt an object to maintain a high standard in this article of produce, and to encourage it to acquire a good reputation in the English market; but it is equally an object to secure and maintain a good reputation for many other articles of Indian production, such as tea, tobacco, indigo, jute, and silk. These and other articles have not, however, enjoyed the protection of a special Commissioner, but are left to private enterprize, stimulated by the encouragement of the Local and Supreme Governments. There is no reason why cotton should, now that the trade has found its normal level, continue to be treated exceptionally." The Chamber remarks: "But while India generally is reaping the fruits of these liberal measures, we regret that a contrary local policy, of a mischievous and restrictive character, is adopted in this Presidency, under the order of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, in dealing with cotton—our main article of export. In order to maintain an exceptional Act—the Bombay Cotton Frauds Act IX. of 1866—pronounced by the mercantile community, and the cotton trade particularly, to be unnecessary and supported only by a few officers of the Bombay Government and by the officials of the department maintained for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Act, a tax of two annas per bale is imposed, which, in these days of low and falling prices, the trade can ill afford to bear. And the tax is the more burdensome because it is felt that the improvement which has taken place in the quality of Indian cotton in recent years, is due entirely to the extension of railway and telegraphic communication into the cotton districts, and to the natural operation of the laws of trade; and that any frauds attempted would be effec-

tually reached by the general criminal law of the country. The free policy of your Lordship's administration forms a striking contrast to the narrow system of interference which has prevailed in this Presidency in maintaining such an Act." The Chamber thus notices the new Tariff Act :

"But we desire more especially to express to your Lordship the gratitude which we, in common with the people of India, feel for the introduction of the Indian Tariff Act, 1875, and for the benefits which have already begun to flow from that great and liberal measure. Among the interests benefitted by the reductions and remissions of taxation conceded under that Act, was the import trade in piece-goods and yarns, which was relieved by the revision of the tariff valuations for assessment of duty, to the extent of £88,000, or 11 per cent. of the entire duty previously paid. Export duties also were abolished which, in the previous year, produced a revenue of £173,000; and import duties were reduced which in the previous year, by a happy coincidence, produced £173,000 also. In the first of these items only, that is to say in the relief given from reduced tariff valuations, was there an absolute loss of revenue. The deficiency of revenue arising out of the remission and reduction of the export and import duties, will, on the other hand, be temporary, involving no ultimate loss; for it is certain, as all experience proves, that the present loss of revenue will in a very few years be recouped from increased agricultural production, augmenting the land-revenue and facilitating its collection, and from increased consumption of duty-paying articles imported. The beneficent effect of the measure on some of the more important articles of export and import is already apparent. The export duties were abolished on the 6th August 1875, and the following table shows the remarkable increase which has occurred in the various descriptions of seeds, exported from Bombay alone, in the seven months ending 29th February last, compared with the exports in the corresponding months of the previous year :—

*Comparison of Exports in the seven Months ending 29th February.*

| | Linseed. | Gingelly Seed. | Rape and Mustard Seed. | Other Seeds. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | cwts. | cwts. | cwts. | cwts. |
| 1876 ... | 887,232 | 258,986 | 98,130 | 18,606 |
| 1875 ... | 349,388 | 198,640 | 11,346 | 11,281 |
| Increase in the 7 months ending 29th Feb. 1876 ... | 537,844 | 60,346 | 86,784 | 7,325 |

This great increase is, we believe, principally due to the removal of the export duties—a measure which, in its importance to India, cannot be over-estimated, particularly when we remember the present low and declining prices of cotton, and the effect which the annually increasing supplies of cotton from America will probably, ere long, have in curtailing the cultivation of what has hitherto been the principal article of export from India. Thirty years ago the Hon'ble Court of Directors stigmatized the levy of duties on the export of our staples, because such duties "could not fail to restrict the demand for these articles, and to render them less able to compete with the similar products of other countries;" but, whether from political or financial exigency, it was reserved for your Lordship to put an end to this objectionable system.

When the general rate of import duty was reduced from 10 per cent. to 7½ per cent. in 1864, the loss was recouped to the revenue in three years. In the present case, as the reduction is of one-third instead of one-fourth, a longer period may perhaps be required; but it was justly observed in the Legislative Council that the railway system had since 1874 been greatly developed, and that a greater proportionate recoupment might also be expected from every fresh reduction of duty. It will be gratifying to your Lordship to find that this expectation has already begun to be realized. In the four months ending 31st January 1876, there has been an increase in the value of metals, imported into Bombay alone, of Rs. 10,96,373, and, in sugar, of Rs. 13,05,894, compared with the imports in the corresponding months of the previous year; and the reduction of the duty will doubtless have the like good effect in stimulating importations of other commodities. We trust that these and similar modifications of the tariff are merely preparatory to a time when India shall be freed from all Custom Duties. We do not forget, however, that the present state of the finances does not admit of such a step; and, meanwhile, the relief which your Lordship has been enabled to give to the general import trade has been very gratefully appreciated by the people of India, and it came at a time when the trade was, and had been for years, in a state of extreme depression.

The commercial policy of your Lordship's Government has commended itself to the general approbation of the country. We believed that few measures have ever been introduced into India better calculated to serve the real interests of India, than the Indian Tariff Act, 1875; and we sincerely trust that the position laid down in your Lordship's tariff speech will never be abandoned, namely, that "in all financial questions the true interest of the people of India is the only consideration which the Government of India has to regard."

The above is nothing but truth. It affords us great pleasure to read this spontaneous and handsome testimony to the liberal commercial policy of the late Viceroy from the leading merchants of Bombay. What a contrast is this spirit to the *insouciance*, if not something worse, of the merchants of Calcutta! Time will come when divested of the passions and prejudices of the hour the Indian public will rightly and gratefully appreciate the benefits of Lord Northbrook's wise and liberal policy.

## MR. LOBB'S LETTERS.

The late Mr. Lobb was a bold thinker, and wrote many thoughtful papers, which we wish some friend of his could collect and publish in a durable form. It seems that some interest is taken in the letters, which he wrote to his native friends, and as we happen to possess a few, we have much pleasure in presenting them to the reader. Of course these letters were private, but we believe they are of sufficiently general interest to merit publication. We hope no offence will be taken by those gentlemen, whom it may directly or indirectly touch. Our correspondence with Mr. Lobb began in 1870 upon the education question, which then greatly agitated the native mind. We are sorry we have not preserved the numerous letters, which we had the pleasure of receiving from him on this and other subjects, but the few that are left will doubtless interest the reader. The discussion was as to the merits of the present system of what Mr. Lobb called verbal education; he himself started the discussion, and in reply to our notes he wrote as follows :

"Many thanks for your kind letter. I am afraid I did not make myself clearly understood. I certainly never intended to advocate an interference policy on the part of Government in religious matters. According to the theory which I held Governments should (as far as possible) interfere only in temporal matters. Everything which comes within the spiritual domain should be left to the free play of the various social and religious forces which are at work in every community.

Mind I am not one who would undo the work of education in India now that it has begun. It has been carried on by the Government hitherto in a large and tolerant spirit, and has met with the warm approbation of the people for whom it was designed. It has taken deep root, and has become almost a national institution, so that it ought not to be lightly attacked or carelessly abandoned.

But at the same time it is well to remember that State-education has its dangers. When you yield up education to the state you give it a vast powers, an enormous monopoly. You thus in fact stereotype the national mind for generations to come; as a matter of fact perhaps, both in Europe and in India, the states are at present everywhere in advance of the peoples. But it may not always be so, and when any great divergence takes place it will be felt what a sacrifice has been made by allowing the State to have in its hand the spiritual control of the rising generation. In India you have permitted the State to stamp with its authority the metaphysical training now prevalent in most of the European universities, which were founded in mediaeval times. A fictitious importance, and an unvial vitality have thus been conferred upon the doctrines and system of the metaphysical school. You cannot set up any college or school upon different principles because it would not have a chance of surviving for a month in presence of the overwhelming strength of the Government organisation. You may perhaps say that the Government could change its system, and abandon the metaphysical jargon which is now taught in its schools. It might do so, but Governments are generally conservative, and although they may be slightly in advance of the governed, never so much I fancy as to enable them completely to alter a system which has become identified with a large circle of vested interests.

I agree with much of what you say in your letter, and as an individual shall be rejoiced to see Bengal triumph in the present instance over the Government of India."

We are sorry to say that the above is the only one left of the several interesting letters which he addressed us on the education question. Mr. Lobb was a prolific writer, and gave his thoughts to many questions of the day, and we suggested to him that instead of carrying on private correspondence if he would address his letters to our paper, we would be happy to exchange ideas in a regular public discussion. But he replied that he had been interdicted by Sir George Campbell from writing to the press, in reference to what he had written about the "British Raj," and that as he had given a pledge not to do so, he would not violate it. Our correspondence was then continued as before. We are sorry that there is a long gap between 1870 and 1872; although we had received many letters from Mr. Lobb on diverse subjects we were careless enough not to preserve them; the few that we have been able to lay our hands upon are given below. He thus wrote to us about the letter which we felt it our duty to address Sir George Campbell in reference to certain remarks he had been pleased to make regarding this journal. This letter is dated the 1st January 1873 :

I thought your letter to the Lieutenant Governor in the last *Patriot* very good, although I must not conceal from you that I think you have been too hard upon him at times. Still he placed himself in a false position by speaking of you as he did, and of this you have taken—as you were entitled to do—full advantage. I don't approve of the Lieutenant Governor's measures as a rule, and he speaks too roughly at times no doubt, but I cannot bring myself to think that he deserves all the hard things that have been said of him. You would have got much more out of him if you had stroked him down the right way. He is just one of those men who dislike either violent opposition or perfect agreement. You must seem to yield a little to him, and then he will grant you much. Don't think me Machiavellian. What I mean is rather in the spirit of St. Paul who says that he was all things to all men. The Lieutenant Governor requires to be trusted in this spirit. At the same time he would never forego the great lines of his policy.

In a letter dated the 24th May 1873, he thus wrote to us on the subject of the epidemic fever :

"I have to thank you for a pamphlet on the Epidemic. I read the articles as they came out in the *Patriot*. It strikes me that no one has yet got to the root of the matter. Might not the break-up of your old social and religious organization have something to do with it. The old Brahminical ceremonial must have had a very salutary hygienic effect, and must have predisposed the subject in many ways. By loosening the old bonds we are producing a general laxative effect, which, although primarily intellectual and moral, re-acts with considerable force upon the physical organism. It is very strange that the rise of cholera exactly synchronizes with the establishment of European influence in this country. I believe these epidemics too are quite common. You find very little disease among tribes whose mental unity has not been disturbed. I sadly fear that the longer we English govern the country the worse the state of things will become. Hindooism ought not to be broken up prematurely. This precious Primary Education (if carried out) will add immensely to the existing confusion. The equlibrium will become more unstable than ever. It is a sad look-out, but our rulers are as blind as bats.

*P. S.*—The only hope in the matter of Primary Education is that the people will resist the taxes, and so make it impossible to carry out the scheme.

Mr. Lobb's action as Principal of the Krishnaghur College was somewhat misunderstood at this time, and as we felt the injustice of the complaint against him, we endeavoured to put his acts in a proper light before the Government and the native public. In a letter dated the 4th June 1873, he thus wrote to us on the subject :

Allow me to thank you very kindly for your defence of me in the last number of the *Hindoo Patriot*. I may be, as the *Patrika* says, a useless Principal, but if so I can conscientiously affirm that it is not from a want of devotion to my work. I believe I have incurred some odium through the enforcement of certain rules, more especially the Government rule about scholarships. The odium I have incurred with reference to the scholarships is especially regrettable, because the rule is one of which I do not approve myself, and experience has at length taught me that the Government itself does not give one any cordial support if the rule is enforced. I found this rule in existence, and as it was stated very definitely and explicitly I concluded that it was meant to be carried out. I think the rule a hard one, as I also think the rule about testing the qualifications of Entrance and F. A. candidates to be hard. But finding the rules I thought I had no option but to carry them out honestly. The fact is the rules are only meant for show, and such being the case it would be much better if they were abolished. I may have given offence in other matters, but I have always striven to do the best I could according to the light that is in me. At any rate I can say with some amount of triumph that I have not had any of the disgraceful and undignified squabbles which have lately been brought to light in those two highly successful institutions the Presidency and Hooghly Colleges. I believe that Dacca and Kishnaghur are the only two Colleges in which unseemly scenes of this kind have not taken place. I am aware that there was a great failure, the first year I came here, not that that failure was inevitable under the circumstances and would have taken place even if I had been a Principal after the *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* own heart (whatever kind of Principal may be.) I foresaw this failure from the first, and repeatedly pointed out that there must be a catastrophe. But I was told to do the best I could, and accordingly had no choice except to drift to shipwreck. Still after all this failure was only partial. It did not extend to the B. A. class, and my two Honour pupils in History achieved a brilliant success. It was this lamentable failure which reduced our 3rd year class on 31st March 1871 to 1, a solitary circumstance which led the Lieutenant Governor to conclude that our two upper classes were perfectly useless and that we were with the exception of Berhampore the most useless educational institution in Bengal. I never knew a theory founded on a more slender basis of fact. But the Lieutenant Governor evidently sincerely believes that we are about the worst and that Hooghly is the most successful of the Mofussil Colleges. Hooghly must have changed a great deal since the year 1867, and I don't think that recent events are quite in favour of the Lieutenant Governor's theory. Our failure in 1870 was aggravated by the policy which the Government was just then initiating. Every one was frightened, so that out of the 7 F. A. students whom we passed all got away to the Presidency who could, of course the scholars all went off to a man. Had it not been for this we should have been in no worse position than any other Mofussil College is when it has a bad year in the F. A. For example Dacca in 1872 I think passed 9. Now its 3rd year in 1873 can't be much larger than ours would have been, under ordinary circumstances, in 1872, after having passed 7. But the Lieutenant Governor took into consideration none of these things. He sets the fatal figure 1, and forthwith the fiat goes forth for our abolition. Henceforward it is a fixed idea with him that Krishnaghur College is an unclean thing to be brushed away if possible into the Limbo of Nature's abortive works. I expect there has of late been a large amount of action in other departments founded upon theories equally treacherous.

I was beginning to hope that the evil days here had blown over, and that there would be now a better understanding between me and those of your countrymen with whom I am professionally brought into contact. We have had no repetition of our bad success and I have done my best to be on friendly terms with my pupils. Where rules have been thought to press too hardly I have always been willing to alter them, but when rules are established it is not I think just to the general body of students if exceptions to them are continually allowed. To please all would I know be impossible, nor do I think it advisable that any one in authority should lay himself out for pleasing all. But I am afraid that at Kishnaghur, for one reason or another, I have failed to please a considerable number. Circumstances somehow have told against me, and I have had to suffer for prejudices and mistakes the source of which I have in most cases not been able to trace. I am very sensitive to what I consider uncalled-for attacks, and on finding my motives and actions

hen I first came here, wholly misrepresented and myself the object of unmerited blame, I was naturally annoyed and grew suspicious. This same *Patrika* abused me once before and mixed up then as now my Positivism with my inefficiency as a Principal. A speech which I made at our annual prize-giving, in which I pointed out some of the dangers of a purely intellectual training was wholly misinterpreted and turned against me, being alleged as an evidence of the disgust which I entertained for the whole Bengalee people. This I thought was the unkindest cut of all, as I have never spoken or written a word which I intended to be adverse to the people of Bengal. I have certainly at times pointed out the defects of our educational system here, but not in language half so strong as I should apply to the educational system of England, so if I am a hater of the Bengalee people I must be, for the same reason, a hater of my own people too and I suppose of several other peoples besides. I have had no object in pointing out defects except to see a better state of things initiated. Had I regarded the defects as irremediable I should have kept silent. In treating of social matters I have always endeavoured to abstain from flattery on the one hand and from abuse on the other. My belief in the theory of development prevents me from placing the Bengalee on the same footing as the European, but at the same time it leads me to sympathize with the former and to see in him what the European was at an earlier period, and in the European what the Bengalee may become as the years roll onward. I don't say that the European and the Bengalee will ever be exactly similar, but each may attain to his own special kind of perfection, and in each the resultant development may be altogether good (that is, allowing for inevitable imperfections.)

Apologizing for this long note, and again thanking for your kind remarks believe me.

*(To be Continued.)*

## LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

OUR CHITTAGONG correspondent informs us that in reply to the application by telegram of Babu Lallchand Chowdry His Honor the Lieutenant Governor directed him to apply to the Commissioner or Judge to stop the proceedings if necessary. Unfortunately at Chittagong the Commissioner and Judge are the same person, and the people have no independent judicial tribunal to appeal to from the vagaries of the executive. Not without considerable struggle the case was at last postponed till the arrival of the defendant's counsel, who was unfortunately detained in the steamer by which he had left, and which having stranded he had almost a narrow escape. The defendant had applied that the case might be heard by some other officer, as Mr. Kirkwood was himself so much mixed up in it, but his application was rejected.

Since writing the above we have received the following letter from our Chittagong correspondent:

"In my previous letters I informed you how our Magistrate Mr. Kirkwood got the Commissioner Mr. Lowis to support him. Barrister Mr. Mon Mohun Ghose on arrival applied to the latter to send for the case from the Magistrate's file and to recommend the High Court to quash the Magistrate's proceedings, as there was not a particle of evidence against his client Lallchand Baboo. After a couple of hours' pleading, Mr. Ghose convinced the Commissioner that Mr. Kirkwood's proceedings were entirely illegal and groundless, and he (Mr. Lowis) as Commissioner has now ordered the Magistrate to drop the case or else he (Mr. Lowis) as Judge would be compelled to have his proceedings quashed by the High Court. In open Court, our Commissioner confessed to the Barrister, that believing Mr. Kirkwood to be in the right he (Mr. Lowis) had made an *exparte* report to Government, supporting Mr. Kirkwood in all his proceedings, and now he (Mr. Lowis) found himself in a rather false position before Government. Mr. Ghose suggested to the Commissioner that he had still the power to recall his former report or send a telegram praying His Honor not to pass any order, before the case was finally disposed of.

In connection with Mr. Webster's Case, Mr. Kirkwood ordered the institution of three cases against the poor ryots. One of these cases was referred to full-power Deputy Magistrate Mr. Sarson of nearly 30 years' experience in judicial work. Mr. Webster was examined as a witness for the prosecution and it was in this examination that Mr. Webster was forced to give out the truth and make a complete confession to his attacking the natives, and of firing at them with small shots. After the examination was over, Mr. Webster reported the whole matter to Mr. Kirkwood. The Magistrate at once withdrew the case, and transferred it to Mr. Veasy's file. This of course, Mr. Sarson took as an insult to him and he (Mr. Sarson) has accordingly sent up a copy of the case before him, and of other papers, to the Lieutenant Governor for his consideration.

I have informed you that at a subsequent meeting of the Municipal Committee, the bye-laws about conservancy were repealed by a majority. Nevertheless Mr. Kirkwood it is said has asked the Commissioner to recommend the Lieutenant Governor not to repeal the bye-laws.

I have just heard that in one of the supplementary cases to Mr. Webster's case, Mr. Veasy has fined the ryots the grand sum of Re. 1 for placing the *Band* across the *Khal* which provoked Mr. Webster's wrath."

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WE LEARN from a private letter received by the last Mail that the Government of India has lately sent to England a large collection of ancient sculptures weighing altogether twenty-two tons from the Eusofsai country. The sculptures are mostly Buddhist and of great interest. They will be exhibited next month in the Indian Museum when the Geographicals are to give a *soiree* there, and on that occasion H. R. H. the Prince of Wales will display his Indian presents. The collections both of the sculptures and of the presents will, it is expected, prove immensely attractive to the cockneys. Indian experts who have seen the presents assess them at seventy lacs of rupees, or about eleven times the amount sanctioned by Parliament for the Prince's travelling expenses.

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WE UNDERSTAND that the Trustees of the Indian Museum have lately purchased Dr. Dey's large collection of Indian Fishes. Dr. Dey was for some time employed as Surveyor of Indian Fisheries, and travelled all over India at public expense to inspect the Fisheries, and had excellent opportunities, which he did not neglect, of making a valuable collection. None of his reports, if he ever made any, has yet seen the light, but his collections will prove useful to Ichthyologists. The Trustees are now negociating for the purchase of the late Mr. W. S. Atkinson's collection of Indian Insects. It fills twenty-five large cases, and is particularly rich in Darjeeling Lepidoptera.

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WE HOPE that the rumour that Mr. Rivers Thompson is too ill to stay at Rangoon is not true. He has entered upon his work in right earnest. He smelt a jobbery in the Rangoon Municipality, and he at once directed his Secretary to say that "the Chief Commissioner feels constrained to suspend the acts of the Committee with reference to the appointment of a Home Agency, until an explanation is submitted by you of the necessity for such a measure." Mr. Rivers Thompson is a most conscientious administrator, and his absence will be much felt in British Burma. It is said that Lord Ulick Browne will officiate for him.

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THE FIFTY-FIVE years' rule, though introduced in the interest of the public service, when it is enforced without due discretion, is calculated to do more harm than good. We have had several cases of late in which the rule ought to have been suspended, but the Government has thought fit to act otherwise. In the case of Mr. Inglis in order to give promotion to some juniors a most experienced and able officer is to be compelled to retire. The case of Mr. J. B. Roberts is one of flagrant injustice and cries shame upon all concerned. It is stated that Babu Grishchunder Ghose, Sub-Judge of Shahabad, has received a notice to quit, though he is in full vigour and activity. This gentleman is an ornament of the subordinate judicial service, and his forced retirement will be a great loss to the service. It is significant that while repeated extension of time was allowed to Babu Punchanun Banerjea, we hear nothing as to whether any such indulgence will be shewn to Babu Grishchunder Ghose.

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IN THE following extract which we give from a recent speech of the Chairman of the Chartered Mercantile Banks, Mr. G. G. Nicol, the reader will find a confirmation of our views on the Exchange question:

"He pointed out that the depreciation of silver was not, as many people suppose, the cause of the low exchange, but the effect. The cause was simply that the balance of trade was adverse to India, and he hoped the Committee of the House of Commons now sitting on the question of silver would investigate that part of the question. One cause of the disturbed balance of trade was the excessive export to India from England under the lavish abuse of credit which had grown up; and another was th heavy falling off in value of Indian and Chinese produce during the last few years. He thought that by the natural progress of reaction an improvement would occur, though perhaps slowly. The reckless abuse of credit in Lancashire was now at an end, and trade was getting into sound and respectable channels, where the requirements of India were not likely to be exceeded as they had been, while as regarded imports from India the same cause which restricted exports, would increase the imports into England. The Council drafts, however, were a serious disturbing cause, as these now amounted to £16 000,000 a year and he thought the Government should apply themselves earnestly to opening up the resources of the country far more than they had hitherto done. He saw no reason why the facilities for the transport of produce to the ports should not be increased, and more encouragement given to private enterprise. As for the production of silver, Mr. Nicol thought the public had been unnecessarily "scared," and he believed the demonetization of coin in Germany would extend over so long a period that the mischief would be greatly lessened."

The prospects of India are very gloomy. The question is daily deepening—how will the cry of the "belly" be satisfied?

## SELECTION.

### A 'BLACK PAMPHLET.'

*(From the London Examiner.)*

A pamphlet bearing the above title, and published in Calcutta, has been for a short time before the public. It purports to be a history of the Bengal Famine of 1874. It is in fact an attack, all round, on the Famine operations. The first exception we take to the pamphlet is its title, for which the writer gives no justification whatever, so far as Lord Northbrook, Sir George Campbell, and Sir Richard Temple are concerned. In the old days of political agitation in England, nothing was commoner than "black lists," but then the lists were at least believed to refer to wilful delinquency. In the case of the Bengal Famine the first authoritative alarm was given by the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, Sir George Campbell, who had knowledge of a former famine, which had devastated whole regions. Sir George sought evidence from the best sources at his disposal, and he came to the conclusion that all the premonitory signs of famine were one by one appearing. Others who also remembered Orissa took the same view, and the alarm felt in India was echoed back from England, with the distinct injunction that the Government of India should not, on its peril allow human life again to be sacrificed to any plea of economy. Lord Northbrook, a little slowly, but at last very surely, came round to the same view, Sir Richard Temple was at first a doubter; but once the evidence was brought before him not only was his doubt removed, but he urged with all his power that the proposed famine operations, deemed sufficient by Sir George Campbell, should be vastly extended, as they were under Sir Richard's personal superintendence, and with a heavy responsibility. We give full credit to Sir George Campbell, to his successor in the Bengal Presidency, and to the Viceroy, for perfect sincerity, for earnest, painstaking, and, indeed, painful investigation. We are satisfied that they acted on the best evidence they could obtain. Therefore we say that, even if they did fall into error, the result cannot, without an outrage on language and common-sense, be given in a 'Black Pamphlet.' There was no intention to waste money. There was no intention to throw contracts into any hands for selfish purposes. There was a stern resolution from first to last to check every indication of jobbery. Above all, there was no attempt on the part of high officers—at least as far as we have seen—to reap benefit from what was beyond all question deemed an impending public calamity.

The next question that naturally arises is were the presumed signs of famine real? The writer of the pamphlet, dated 1875, says "No." Some of the best officers in India in 1873 said "Yes." The writer of this pamphlet says that "the famine of 1874 was an impossibility from the beginnings; in some cases were of an average one, and that the crop," which in some cases were of an average amount, were in others bumper crops. For all this Lord Northbrook is not blamed; "invincible ignorance," we are told, "even in the strictest of Churches, is sufficient to win pardon for the grossest of errors. "This is a specimen of the writer's mode of dealing with the grave subject. There is no such thing as "invincible ignorance," unless in the case of utter stupidity, and from that Lord Northbrook is exonerated, or from the impossibility of procuring correct information; and the whole drift of the pamphlet is to show that there was no such impossibility in the case. The whole question comes to this, if we are to agree with the writer— either Lord Northbrook and Sir George Campbell were fools or knaves. That is, they either could not obtain the evidence that was obtainable, or, having obtained it, could not use it, or they wilfully set evidence at naught for some iniquitous purposes. We reject the one supposition as unhesitatingly as we do the other. We believe they were two singularly honest and sensitive men, dreading with a holy dread lest any negligence of theirs should lead to the loss of the lives of poor people hardly ever before cared for in such a way in India.

Of Sir Richard Temple we have a round and wholesale condemnation. Here is the gist of the statement:—"The charges (against Sir Richard) are indeed cruelly explicit. They are, shortly, that, being ignorant of everything concerning Bengal and Behar with an unrivalled ignorance, he made estimates of relief for the supposed famine so extravagant, so unreasonable, that they were stigmatised by even such an alarmist as Sir George Campbell as excessive; that the famine narratives given to the public were an entire, if not intentional, perversion of the facts; that he nursed the famine and bolstered it up in the face of the advice of the most experienced officers in Behar; that he superseded and insulted in their own districts men who refused to shriek 'Famine,' with the same lustiness as his own small and very jumo following; that he forced provident officials to give rates of

wages in some cases ten times as great as the ordinary wages of the country; that he made transport contracts at eight times the ordinary rates; that he wasted and lavished and poured money out like water; that of the nine and a half millions of pounds sterling spent in famine relief, eight and a half millions were wasted, ignorantly wasted or recklessly wasted; and last of all, that in order to cushion his worse than errors he besmeared every one with an unseemly praise, from the Commissioners who winked at the estimates to the planters who pocketed the loot." This is a hard opinion to put on record against men who, in a time of stern trial, worked with unremitting zeal, and with the conviction that they were working to stave off a loss of life which England would not have pardoned. Over roadless districts they made roads, with labour of which no account ever has been fully taken. They were made responsible for grain being at certain places against given times. They were threatened with grave consequences if life was lost from want of food. There were false alarms, we know. There was great imposition, as there must be in all such cases. Planters did, in many instances buy up in advance all the means of carriage, and make enormous profits by so doing; a fact that should not be forgotten when the whole body are referred to for indiscriminate praise. There were merchants, we have no doubt, who had an interest in the sale of grain. There were cases of grain being hoarded. There were, possibly enough, officers who looked to the famine to make themselves a name. In fact, we may allow for all the selfishness incident to large expenditure, to meet a extraordinary, or a presumedly extraordinary, crisis. And when we have made all the admissions that justice and fair criticism demand, we say that the charges in the above passage are not merely unjust but absurd. The main charges of waste are made under two heads:—Waste in Grain Allotments, from want of principle and misrepresentation, 4,271,750*l.*; Waste in Transport, 2,486,350.*l*; the rest come under the head of relief works, &c. This is simple nonsense, and we can only say that the writer has by his extreme course injured the cause that we are sure he wishes to serve, and in fact has taken from what is sound in his pamphlet all point and weight. He does not, he cannot, believe the charges he has made. It is simply a matter of history that there were among the officers referred to in very ungenerous terms here as the few who took the side of Sir Richard Temple some men as devoted to their work, and to the high purpose underlying it, as any that ever England sent to India. To say that Sir Richard Temple's "narratives" were "entire, if not intentional perversion of facts," would, if proved, condemn not Sir Richard alone, but Mr. Bernard, who own such, general praise, and own it by rare modesty and hard work and with him many other officers of equally quiet, persistent, and indefatigable labour.

We regret to say this, because there is much in the pamphlet about the soundness of which we have no doubt. It is quite true that the "famine steam-boats," built in England, might have been built at a much less cost in India, and in that case would probably have been constructed so that they could on occasions go stem forward against the Ganges steam, instead of going stern foremost with the stream, for which they had a notable tendency. It is quite true, also, that rice was sent to districts after the district officers had declared that they had enough for their need; that rice and fodder in many cases rotted by the roadside without cover of any kind. But it has not been shown, and we do not think it is possible to show, that any grain or fodder which it was possible to cover was left uncovered, or that there were not unquestionably sound reasons for in some cases continuing to send food to districts after the apparent demand for it had ceased. Each officer saw his own district and that alone. The Lieut-Governor had reports from all the districts, and perhaps knew that there were instances in which there was an absence of cordiality of action between two officers who might be to some extent dependent on each other. There cannot be a doubt, again, that while the Government was sending grain up the Ganges at an enormous cost, grain was passing down for exportation. There were some curious facts in connection with the transport of rice and fodder and if the writer of this pamphlet had seized upon these facts with a view to the future, his labour had not been in vain, as we fear it will prove, and solely because of the line of argument he has taken. Of course, to have weighed rigidly every statement would have been to make a much less pointed pamphlet; but then it might have been a just pamphlet, and that we feel satisfied it is not. We know all about the immense cost; that camels were gathered together for little use, that ponies and buffaloes were scattered over wide districts with long trains of food, part of which was sent back to Calcutta; that a temporary railway which the rains soon destroyed—the highway from the Ganges to Durbunga—was so much labour thrown away, so far as permanent wealth was concerned; that many persons made large sums of money by the sale of grain and by other means less justifiable. It is true also that certain magistrates acted in a manner far beyond the letter of their right, that what has come to be called "sensational" intelligence was common, that figures were not always reliable, that report-writing became a virtue to an undesirable extent, that men were praised for what deserved no praise, and that many a deserving man was not named in any official way. All this may be granted and might have been foreseen, but it could not have been prevented out of Utopia, and while men remain so very human. The 'Black Pamphlet' must not help us lose the true lesson of the Bengal Famine of 1874. Without the help given, there would have been a famine over a very wide district, and even with the help given the need would certainly have been much greater if the drought had continued. We were dealing with districts in which local peculiarities might at the critical time have thwarted our best efforts, in which we could leave nothing to chance. Above all, the Government of India and the Government of Bengal infused earnestness into the service, made man to feel that loyal duty was expected from them, and that only in the performance of that duty were they safe. We do not agree, therefore, with the author of the 'Black Pamphlet,' who however, not without reason, signs himself "Ubique," for he seems to have seen a great deal both on and below the surface of events. There is much to learn from his pamphlet, and much to condemn. It may help to solve the problems of future famines, and that will be well worth his labour, and probably will be the extent of his expectation. To say that the pamphlet is smartly written is to say that it is Anglo-Indian. To say that it proved the charges against Lord Northbrook, or Sir George Campbell, or Sir Richard Temple, would be to say what the clever writer would himself be the first to laugh to scorn.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

| | Rs. | As. | P |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bombay Native General Library | 11 | 0 | 6 |
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| „ Ram Taruck Ghose, Kamroop | 10 | 0 | 0 |
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ERRATUM.

Read A. Sinnatamby Esq., Ceylon 3 0 6
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# MONEY MARKET.

(*May* 20, 1876.)

GOVERNMENT LOANS.

| | | | | *Per* 100 *Rs.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Per Cent., Promissory Notes | ... Rs. | 101 4 *a* | 101 8 |
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GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES OF 1867.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Per Cent. for 10 years | (1877) ... Rs. | Nominal. | |
| 5 | „ for 15 years | (1882) ... „ | 105 0 *a* | 106 0 |

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| 6 | „ of 1867 | ... (1887) ... „ | 112 0 *a* | 112 8 |
| 6 | „ of 1870 | ... (1890) ... „ | 112 4 *a* | 113 0 |
| 6 | „ of 1872 | ... (1892) ... „ | 113 0 *a* | 114 0 |

# Government Notifications.

**Calcutta Gazette.**—*May* 17, 1876.

GENERAL.—*The 2nd May* 1876.—Baboo Bepin Behary Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is appointed to be Manager of the late Baboo Ramkishore Acharjya, Zemindar in the district of Mymensingh.

*The 9th May* 1876.—Baboo Gobind Mohun Ghose, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division, is appointed to be a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in Shahabad, and is posted to the Sudder Station of that district.

Mr. Chunder Nath Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is appointed to be Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division.

*The 10th May* 1876.—Baboo Brojo Mohun Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rungpore, is appointed to the special duty of taking up land for the Northern Bengal State Railway, and is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870.

Baboo Mohim Chunder Ghose, lately relieved of his acting appointment as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in Jessore, is re-appointed to act as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in Moorshedabad during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Brojo Mohun Roy, or until further orders.

Baboo Okhoy Coomar Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Bogra, is transferred to Rungpore.

Baboo Juggut Chunder Roy, Sub-Deputy Collector, Moorshedabad, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Potiram Banerjee, a First Class Canoongoe, Moorshedabad, is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade in that district during the absence, on leave of Baboo Juggut Chunder Roy, or until further orders.

*The 11th May* 1876.—Baboo Mohendro Nath Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, employed on duty connected with the settlement of Noabad talooks in Chittagong, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X (B.C) of 1871.

Baboo Mohini Mohun Chuckerbutty, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X (B. C.) of 1871.

Mr. Charles James O' Donnell, M.A., Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to have charge of the Attia division of the Mymensing district.

This cancels the orders of the 27th ultimo, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 3rd instant, appointing Mr. O' Donnell to Dinagepore.

Mr. G. E. Manisty, Assistant Magistrate and Collector in charge of the Nattore Division of the Rajshahye District, is allowed special leave for six months, under Section 15 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 15th instant, together with subsidiary leave for five days from the 10th to the 14th idem, under Section 18 (*a*) of the Code.

Mr. W. D. Blyth, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Maldah, is appointed to have charge of the Nattore division of the Rajshahye district.

Baboo Okhoy Coomar Bose, Sub-Deputy Collector, Nattore, Rajshahye, is appointed to act as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in Maldah during the absence, on leave, of Moulvi Mujeed Bukt Mozoomder, or until further orders.

Mr. H. Thompson, Superintendent of the Sulkea Salt Golahs, Howrah, is allowed leave for one month from the 12th ultimo, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Rajnarain Dutt, Senior Intendant, Sulkea Salt Golahs, is appointed to act as Superintendent of the Salt Golahs during the absence on leave, of Mr. H. Thompson, or until further orders.


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IN THE COURT FOR THE RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS AT CALCUTTA.

RE JADUB CHUNDER NUNDY AN INSOLVENT.

Notice is hereby given that an order was made by the above Court on 4th May that the order of adjudication made in the above dated 8th September 1873 should be rescinded and the vesting order should be discharged and that the official assignee after payment of his usual commission costs and expences deliver over half the amount of assets in his hands belonging to the estate of Insolvent to Hurry Prosono Nundy one of the sons of the Insolvent and that the assignee should invest the remaining half in Government Securities so far as the same could be invested and endorse and pay over the Government Security and balance money to Sreemutty Radha Dossee Guardian of the infant son of Radha Prosono Nundy the other son of the Insolvent and that if the creditors of the said Insolvent.——Should within one month from the date of the order file with the said assignee their claims the said monies are not to be paid out without the further order of the said Court.

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Notice is hereby given that the proprietory right of the minor Babu Durga Das Rakhit under the Court of Wards in the District of Midnapur to the under mentioned Patni situate in the District of Midnapur will be put up to sale for the liquidation of his debts at the Midnapur Collectorate on the 30th June 1876 corresponding with 17th Asar Friday 1283 B. S. 18th Asar 1283 Amli under Board's sanction obtained in accordance with the provisions of Section 68 Act IV B. C. 1870.

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